

065187

JPRS-NEA-84-184

20 December 1984

Near East/South Asia Report

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A

Approved for public release
Distribution Unlimited

DTIC QUALITY INSPECTED 3

19980319 115

FBIS

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

REPRODUCED BY
NATIONAL TECHNICAL
INFORMATION SERVICE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
SPRINGFIELD, VA. 22161

6
127
A07

NOTE

JPRS publications contain information primarily from foreign newspapers, periodicals and books, but also from news agency transmissions and broadcasts. Materials from foreign-language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed or reprinted, with the original phrasing and other characteristics retained.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [] are supplied by JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpt] in the first line of each item, or following the last line of a brief, indicate how the original information was processed. Where no processing indicator is given, the information was summarized or extracted.

Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically or transliterated are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear in the original but have been supplied as appropriate in context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by source.

The contents of this publication in no way represent the policies, views or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

PROCUREMENT OF PUBLICATIONS

JPRS publications may be ordered from the National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Virginia 22161. In ordering, it is recommended that the JPRS number, title, date and author, if applicable, of publication be cited.

Current JPRS publications are announced in Government Reports Announcements issued semi-monthly by the National Technical Information Service, and are listed in the Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Correspondence pertaining to matters other than procurement may be addressed to Joint Publications Research Service, 1000 North Glebe Road, Arlington, Virginia 22201.

20 December 1984

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Journalist Describes Impression of Gulf Situation ('Abd-al-Karim Abu-al-Nasr; AL-MUSTAQBAL, No 400, 20 Oct 84)	1
Unity Agreements in Maghreb Assessed (ARABIA THE ISLAMIC WORLD REVIEW, No 39, Nov 84)	10
Libyan Opposition Overture to Iraq Criticized (ARABIA THE ISLAMIC WORLD REVIEW, No 39, Nov 84)	13

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

Paper Comments on 'Russianization' of Soviet Armenia (V. Prudyan; AZTAG, 13 Nov 84)	16
--	----

ARAB AFRICA

EGYPT

Regulation of Subsidies Explored (AL-AHRAM: AL-TAB'AH AL-DUWALIYAH, 19 Oct 84)	18
Pros and Cons of Subsidies, by Ahmad Jami' Subsidies Create Indifference, by Wajdi Husayn	
Mustafa Kamil Murad Interviewed (Mustafa Kamil Murad Interview; AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, 28 Oct 84)	26

MOROCCO

Investments in Phosphate Processing (FRANKFURTER ZEITUNG/BLICK DURCH DIE WIRTSCHAFT, 2 Nov 84)	31
--	----

ARAB EAST/ISRAEL

ISRAEL

Harif Analyzes Rabin Plan for Lebanon (Yosef Harif; MA'ARIV, 9 Nov 84)	33
New Legislation Curbs Racist Remarks in Knesset (Ya'acov Bar-Natan; NEWSVIEW, No 45, 14-20 Nov 84)	35
New Method of Recycling Industrial Sewage (Bill Clark; NEWSVIEW, No 43, 31 Oct-6 Nov 84)	37
Optimism Reported Over Price Freeze (Aaron Sittner; THE JERUSALEM POST, 6 Nov 84)	38
Trade, Tourism With South Lebanon Decreases (Shim'on Weiss; DAVAR, 9 Nov 84)	40
Nature, Problems of Package Deal Depicted (Aaron Leibel; NEWSVIEW, No 44, 7-13 Nov 84)	41
Briefs	
Earthquakes in Jordan Valley	43
Condition of New Settlements	43
Broadcasting Authority Budget Abolished	43
Nahal Settlements Shelved	43
Trade Deficit Drops	44
NEWSVIEW May Cease Publication	44
Trade Deficit Down	44
Janin Joins Israeli Electricity Grid	45
IDF Wants Hills Overlooking Ramallah	45

KUWAIT

Leftist Journal Condemns Election Irregularities (AL-TALI'AH, No 859, 26 Sep 84)	46
Election Tactics of Muslim Brothers Criticized (Asam al-Zufayri; AL-TALI'AH, No 860, 3 Oct 84)	48
Opening of New Stock Exchange Building Described (Amin Muhammad Amin; AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, 20 Oct 84)	52

LEBANON

- PSP Official Discusses Security Plan
(Marwan Hamadah Interview; TISHRIN, 5 Aug 84) 57

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

- 'Arafat Talks About PLO Unity, Attempts To Undermine Cause
(Yasar 'Arafat Interview; AL-TADAMUN, No 81,
27 Oct-2 Nov 84) 65

- Eric Rouleau Discusses Book on Palestinians
(Eric Rouleau Interview; AL-TADAMUN, No 85, 24-30 Nov 84) 71

QATAR

- Briefs
Drop in Qatari Imports 76

SYRIA

- Al-Thawrah Dam To Irrigate 10,540 Hectares
(TISHRIN, 31 Jul 84) 77

- Farmers Explain Poor Cotton Crop
(Mustafa Najjar; TISHRIN, 18 Aug 84) 80

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

- Importance of Relations With PRC Stressed
(Editorial; AL-KHALIJ, 2 Nov 84) 91

SOUTH ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

- 450 Muslims 'Massacred'
(KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, 18 Nov 84) 92

- Heavy Fighting in Panjsher
(KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, 20 Nov 84) 93

- Soviet Plane, Helicopters Shot Down
(KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, 21 Nov 84) 94

- Refugees Expelled From Peshawar
(KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, 25 Nov 84) 96

IRAN

- Radio Criticizes Jordan King's PNC Inauguration
(Tehran International Service, 22 Nov 84) 97

War Information Chief Repeats Charges Against Red Cross (IRNA, 25 Nov 84)	99
Iranian Official Accuses Red Cross Over POW's (Tehran International Service, 26 Nov 84)	102
NVOI Carries Letter of Tudeh Prisoners' Families (National Voice of Iran, 27 Nov 84)	103
IRNA Claims Iraq Holds 20,000 Missing Iranians (IRNA, 27 Nov 84)	104
Clandestine Radio Discusses Rifts in Iranian Armed Forces (Free Voice of Iran, 29 Nov 84)	105
Paper Views Cairo Student Unrest as 'First Spark' of Uprising (IRNA, 27 Nov 84)	106
NEPAL	
Briefs	
Envoy to Saudi Arabia	107
Diplomatic Ties With Zimbabwe	107
Belgian Envoy	107
PAKISTAN	
Minister Says Islamization Has Not Hurt Tourism (THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 8 Nov 84)	108
'Prior Consultations' Urged on Laws Affecting Women (DAWN, 8 Nov 84)	110
Punjab Minister Talks About Farm to Market Roads (THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 9 Nov 84)	112
Lahore Slum Colonies Said To 'Enjoy Modern Facilities' (THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 9 Nov 84)	113
Commentary Makes Fun of Radio Free Europe Office in Islamabad (Khalid Hasan; THE MUSLIM, 12 Nov 84)	115
Zia Gives Assurances to Japanese Investors (DAWN, 25 Nov 84)	117
Report Says Large Number of Overseas Workers To Return (DAWN, 25 Nov 84)	119
Official Talks About Refugee Problems, Resettlement (DAWN, 25 Nov 84)	120

JOURNALIST DESCRIBES IMPRESSION OF GULF SITUATION

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 400, 20 Oct 84 pp 27-31

[Article by 'Abd-al-Karim Abu-al-Nasr: "Report From the Gulf: Why Do the Americans Sneer At Arab Threats? When Will Gromyko Visit Baghdad and Teheran To End the War? Is There a New Secret International Agreement Concerning the Area?"]

[Text] The important Gulf official looked at the American envoy and said, in a determined, serious tone of voice, "If the United States moved its embassy from Tel Aviv to occupied Jerusalem, or if it allowed Israel to "swallow up" the West Bank, Gaza, and the other occupied Arab territories, America would find itself out of the Middle East, just as happened to Britain and France after the 1956 aggression against Egypt, and the Soviets would gain a strong, lasting foothold in this area."

The Gulf official expected uneasiness and anxiety to appear on the American envoy's face, but the latter smiled broadly and scornfully and said, "The United States will not lose the Middle East no matter what happens. This region will not become Soviet. We have many more friends in the Arab world than people imagine. Even those who are not our friends will turn to us or try to open bridges to dialog with us. The Arabs have no alternative to America. The Soviet Union is no substitute, nor is Western Europe. In fact, I can say without exaggeration that the sole alternative to America, for most Arabs, is America itself!"

The Gulf official felt quite bitter, but he controlled himself and said, "You are mistaken. The sole alternative to America is not America or Russia or Europe, but Arab might and solidarity."

The American envoy continued smiling, more with pity than scorn, and replied, "Arab might? Where is Arab might, my friend? The Arabs have wasted those few years when they constituted an effective force. The Arabs reached the peak of their might between the 1973 war and the end of the Seventies. But this might rapidly deteriorated and dwindled, just like "a midsummer's night dream." Arab might is now dispersed among axes and blocs fighting among themselves more than they fight their enemies. Let us be realistic. The Arabs cannot effectively threaten America or any other superpower, since their "might" is fragmented, weak and engaged in infighting, as we can see today."

The Gulf official was silent, and did not answer.

After spending 3 weeks in Kuwait, during which time I met with several senior officials, politicians, and foreign diplomats as well as with an American envoy visiting the Arab Gulf, the following picture of the Middle East appeared to me.

The United States has not lost its role or influence in the region, in spite of all the mistakes it has made, the "setbacks" its diplomacy has suffered in Lebanon and in solving the Arab-Israeli conflict, its continuing partiality towards Israel, and all the criticisms directed at it by its "friends and foes" in the Arab world. In fact, it would seem that the number of America's "friends," or more properly, "dependents," in the region is increasing.

The logical conclusion to be drawn from this is that Soviet influence in the Middle East is waning. But that is not the case, for the Soviet Union's influence in the region is also getting stronger. The Soviets are slowly, gradually, but surely strengthening their position in the Middle East, and their present position is better and stronger than it was a few years ago.

Therefore, at whose expense is this American and Soviet progress being made? At the expense of the Arabs, naturally. The fact is, the only party which is getting weaker and is losing its influence in the region is the Arabs. The superpowers are strengthening their position in the Arab world at the expense of the Arabs, as a result of the deterioration and scattering of Arab might.

This is why the Americans scoff at Arab threats and attach no importance to them.

This is why conflicts and wars break out and continue, and no one really cares or intervenes as long as the shooting burns Arab houses and does not reach the "big guys' houses."

There is more.

There are some who say--I have heard this from several Arab and foreign figures--that America and Russia have reached a new "secret agreement" about the Middle East, the details of which are not yet known, but which is clearly the result of the Arabs' circumstances, disputes, and interminable conflicts.

However, let us start at the beginning.

The Americans first. In the few weeks since he presented his credentials, the new American ambassador to Kuwait, Anthony Cecil Quentin, has become one of the more active foreign ambassador in this country, if not the most active. Soviet Ambassador to Kuwait Boghus Akubov may be the only one who can "compete" with him in activity.

Ambassador Quentin is not familiar with the Middle East, and has never served in the area during his diplomatic career, but he "knows" one aspect of the

area: terrorism. In the early Eighties, Quentin was the director of the American State Department's "Counter-Terrorism Office," and in this capacity came to the Middle East only once, to visit Israel and some Arab countries.

Nothing prevents Ambassador Quentin from travelling around Kuwait, or visiting many people, or initiating dialogs with various officials and personages. No rigorous security measures have been imposed on him to limit his movements (out of fear of hostile acts), and there are no criticisms of American policy violent enough to make him fear for his safety. On the contrary.

In fact, the new American ambassador, who appears to have studied the files on the region very well before coming to Kuwait, knows the strengths and weaknesses of his new assignment. He received this position after America had "censured" Kuwait for months because Kuwait had refused to accept the appointment of Brandon Groff as American ambassador in 1983 because the latter was American consul general in occupied Jerusalem. American "displeasure" changed to pleasure only after Kuwait concluded an arms deal with the Soviet Union early this summer! At that time, President Reagan hurried to appoint Anthony Quentin (whose last post was American ambassador to Nicaragua) as his country's ambassador to this Gulf state.

Naturally, this was not sheer coincidence! Ambassador Quentin knows the strong and weak points of his new post, and knows that Kuwait would be the "first target" of any dramatic development in the Iraq-Iran war. He knows that Kuwaiti officials want to develop relations with the United States in various areas, especially in light of possible developments in the Gulf war. But at the same time, he knows that the Kuwaitis have "strong bridges", politically and militarily, with the Soviet Union and other superpowers. He also knows that Kuwaiti officials will not pass up any chance, open or otherwise, to strongly and severely criticise United States Middle East policy, and he is also aware that the 'Kuwaiti scene,' with its dynamic free press and its various political activities, is not at all a "friendly" one for the United States. For example, 2 weeks ago the American ambassador met with an important Kuwaiti minister and asked him whether he could attend the minister's diwan, or council, to hear what the people have to say. The minister laughed and said, "You are welcome, but I had better tell you right now that you would hear some very strong statements, which would surely not surprise you, about the United States and its regional policy. If you are brave enough, then you are welcome to attend our council."

So far, the ambassador has not attended this important Kuwaiti minister's diwan.

Is Reagan Putting Pressure On Israel?

In Kuwait, everyone follows the news of the Gulf and the entire Arab world, as well as American and Soviet news, and knows what is happening on the Iraq-Iran war front, the Lebanese front, the American-Israeli relations front, and so forth.

In Kuwait, I met with an American envoy named Pat Holt who was visiting several Gulf states and Pakistan in an "unofficial capacity." The important thing about him is that he has been a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for 27 years. In other words, during that time he was intimately involved in "making" United States Middle East policy, and was in a position to sense the strength of Zionist influence in Congress and various American circles. I had a private talk with him about several issues.

The first thing I said was that many Arab officials and politicians are expecting the Reagan administration to put some "real pressure" on Israel after the American elections, to get it to become "more flexible" in its stand on the Palestinian problem and the future of the occupied Arab territories. What led the Arabs, or at least some of them, to anticipate this was the idea that Reagan would be "liberated" from the Jewish vote once he started his next term. Furthermore, Israel needs American financial, economic, technological and military support more now than at any time in the past because of its terrible economic problems, a circumstance which would give America some "additional leverage" in pressuring Israel. I asked the American envoy about this.

He looked at me with great pity and said, "Forgive me if I puncture the hopes of those who expect Reagan to put any pressure on Israel after the American election. These expectations are based on a bunch of myths and delusions. I will be very brief when I tell you the following facts. It is true that during his second term the American president is free of many factors and considerations which played a part in determining the course of his first term (including the Jewish vote). However, the members of Congress are not free from those factors, nor from the influence of the Jewish vote, if they want to keep their seats. Most Congressmen either don't want to 'anger' the pro-Israeli Jewish lobby, or else want to please it. In either case, they would restrict the activities of any American president who actually wanted to move in the direction of 'pressuring' Israel.

"Do Israeli economic problems, and Israel's increasing dependence on American support, give the American president more power to pressure the Israeli government? No. Israel's United States supporters are saying, in effect, 'If you stop aid to Israel and put pressure on it, that would lead to the collapse of the Jewish state. If Israel collapses, that would be a terrible disaster for the United States and its role in the Middle East. Therefore, you must help Israel become stronger, and avoid weakening it at this stage.' This means that in dealing with America, Israel is deriving strength from its weakness and its economic problems. Israel's supporters in Congress and in various government agencies will not allow any real, serious pressure on Israel.

"Therefore, the Arabs must realize that any American post-election activity to achieve peaceful progress in the region will not even consider the possibility of 'pressuring' Israel, or even reconsidering its special circumstances."

I said, "Then there is no hope?" He did not answer.

I then asked, "Can you summarize United States policy towards the Gulf region and the Iraq-Iran war?"

The American envoy thought for a bit and then said, "It can be summarized very simply: The United States hopes that nothing big will happen in the war or in the Gulf region. This is only a hope."

The American envoy did not want to go into an explanation of what he actually meant by this statement, but information we have received on this matter from our contacts in Kuwait reveals the following.

The United States cannot prevent the expansion of the Iraq-Iran war or halt it, because its influence is non-existent in Iran and very weak in Iraq. On the other hand, it can ensure the military needs of the Gulf states, in order to keep the war from expanding in scope. Actually, Gulf officials are not convinced of this American "inability," and they dread its causes and consequences. This very matter was brought up in the meeting between the Gulf Cooperation Council foreign ministers and American Secretary of State George Schultz in Washington earlier this month. One of the ministers attending this meeting said, "In the last few days, all of America has been actively defending Soviet Dissident Andrei Sakharov, and now they say that they cannot do anything about a destructive war which has lasted more than 4 years. How can a person accept such logic?"

There is an American-Soviet "agreement" pertaining to the Gulf area and the Iraq-Iran war. This agreement is not aimed at ending this war, but at making sure that there is no direct confrontation between Washington and Moscow in this area, and at avoiding any measures which might lead to such a confrontation. But this "agreement" will not keep the two countries from competing to achieve specific gains in this region.

The United States will not launch any real initiative to attempt to "bring peace" to the area by stopping the war. On the one hand, no Arab force could force it to do so. On the other hand, this war has brought some countries "closer" to America for various reasons and considerations. In a third sense, there is no danger of a confrontation with the Soviets because of this war. So why the uneasiness and the activity?

In Kuwait, many people follow the news of the Arab world and developments there. Gulf and Western personages whom we met in Kuwait have given us important information about the situation in Lebanon and the Middle East in general.

First of all, a prominent American diplomat posted in a Gulf state told us the facts about the "rapprochement" between Syria and the United States. This diplomat told us, "The Reagan administration has now come to realize that no medium- or long-range solution can be found for the Lebanese problem without consulting, cooperating, and coordinating with Syria. It is a

mistake to ignore Syria and its influence in Lebanon. Therefore, there has been an intense Syrian-American dialog about Lebanon, and there is a strong American desire to get together with Syria over this problem. Even so, Damascus and Washington still disagree over many issues, including the Gulf war, how to solve the Middle East crisis, the Soviet role in such a solution, Syria's stand on Egypt's return to the Arab ranks, and other questions. Therefore, those who talk of a Syrian-American "deal" know nothing about Syrian-American relations, and do not understand what is happening in the region." Another Arab personage explained the American diplomat's remark as follows: "Actually, President Reagan wants to facilitate Israel's mission in Lebanon and ensure the withdrawal of Israeli forces from that country. He wants to reach an American-Syrian agreement concerning only Lebanon, and not the Middle East crisis as a whole. It is true that American officials have informed the Syrians that any peace effort must include the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Golan according to Resolution 242, but this, of course, has been deferred. The Syrians are not at all assured as to the intentions of the Reagan administration with respect to solving the Middle East crisis."

What about the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon? Information received from Arab and Western sources indicates that Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Perez discussed with Reagan, Schultz, and other American officials a two-phase plan for withdrawal from Lebanon.

Phase One would be carried out unilaterally by Israel, and would not include any agreement with the parties concerned. In this phase, Israeli forces would withdraw from their present lines along the al-Awwali River and from densely-populated areas in southern Lebanon, falling back to a new line which most likely would be along the Litani River. However, at the same time, Israel would maintain its military forces and presence facing the Syrian forces in the Biqa' Valley, and would also retain its control over the Jabal al-Baruk Heights, from which it observes Syrian military movements.

The second phase would be more complicated and less sure. Israel, according to the agreement between Perez and the American officials, would not withdraw completely from all Lebanese territory until it was reassured that there were no "hostile forces" in the south, and until some security arrangements had been reached with the Lebanese authorities and other parties (including America). Israel is insisting that the "Army of South Lebanon" led by Antoine Lahud (the army which the Israelis are supporting) have a major role in the coming security arrangements, along with the United Nations forces and the regular Lebanese army. This phase would require American mediation, something which the Reagan administration will not agree to before the elections. According to information received from informed Arab and American sources, there are as yet no guarantees that Israel would actually withdraw from all Lebanese territory.

The Minutes of a Kuwaiti-Soviet Meeting

What about the Soviets? The Soviets are making a lot of news in Kuwait, and are being very active. After all, isn't Kuwait the only Gulf state to have

diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union? Isn't Kuwait the "bridge" which the Soviets hope to cross in order to establish relations with all the Gulf states, especially Saudi Arabia? It is no secret that the Soviets are trying very hard to resume relations with the Saudis and have requested Kuwait's mediation in this matter several times. However, so far the Saudis are not ready to accede to these Soviet requests. The Saudis clearly understand the Soviet role in the region, especially in the context of solving the Arab-Israeli conflict. In this respect, informed Gulf sources say that there is a strong possibility that the United Arab Emirates will establish diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union after the next Gulf summit, which will be held in Kuwait during the last week of November. In any case, relations with Moscow will be one of the topics discussed at the Gulf summit.

Naturally, the main event in Kuwaiti-Soviet relations has been the Soviet arms deal, which was agreed to during Kuwait Defense Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah's visit to Moscow earlier this summer. Much has been written about this deal, but information which we have obtained from reliably-informed sources indicates that this deal is important not only because it is the largest deal ever concluded between Kuwait and the Soviet Union (amounting to US\$300 million) but because it includes highly-advanced weapons and experts, and also because it is a preliminary deal which might be followed by other arms deals with Moscow in the future.

The deal includes a network of extremely advanced, electronically-controlled anti-aircraft rockets, intended to protect several of Kuwait's vital, strategic installations and sites. The presence of Soviet experts (ten of them, according to official sources) proves that these rockets are extremely advanced and complicated. These experts will assemble the rocket network's components and will supervise a training program for Kuwait technicians, and will not mix with any other foreign experts. In addition, the deal includes ammunition and some other materiel.

The Kuwaiti-Soviet negotiations discussed providing Kuwait with advanced tanks. The Soviets expressed their willingness to modify these tanks to suit the Kuwaiti climate and its desert conditions. However, no final agreement seems to have been reached on this matter.

In addition, the Soviet officials offered to provide the Kuwaitis with advanced fighter aircraft, but the Kuwaiti officials excused themselves from accepting this offer.

In any case, the door is open to military cooperation between Kuwait and the Soviet Union, and the Soviets are prepared to provide Kuwait with whatever it needs. Moreover, AL-MUSTAQBAL has learned from reliable diplomatic sources that the Soviet officials expressed willingness to ensure Kuwait's protection should there be any major dramatic developments in the Iraq-Iran war. However, the Kuwaiti officials turned the offer down, emphasizing that Kuwait would refuse any state's protection and would defend itself, in coordination with other Gulf states, should there be any attack on Kuwait.

I read the minutes of some important Kuwaiti-Soviet negotiations covering several fundamental Arab issues, which took place in the spring of 1980 in Moscow, between a Kuwaiti delegation headed by Kuwaiti News Agency Board Chairman and Director General Birjis Hammud al-Birjis and a Soviet delegation including four senior Soviet Middle East and Gulf specialists counted among Soviet Middle East policymakers. The minutes, which have never been published before, included some extremely important information.

Birjis Hammud al-Birjis (considered one of the foremost Kuwaiti proponent of developing relations with the Soviet Union) brought up several issues and requested a clear Soviet response to them. These issues were:

1. What do the Soviets think of Iran's call for exporting the Iranian revolution to neighboring countries?
2. Why doesn't the Soviet Union help Syria liberate Golan by military means?
3. How do the Soviets assess their relations with Kuwait?

In response to the first question, the Soviet side stressed that Moscow rejects "in whole and in part" Iranian official statements about exporting the revolution to neighboring countries. In fact, Moscow has advised the Iranian officials to mind their own business and try to improve the Iranian people's conditions across the board. "Otherwise, Iran will be exposing its people to dangers they can do without. The fruits of its revolution will not be harvested, its true interests will be damaged, and Iran will be set back scores of years."

In reply to the second question, the Soviets stressed that "Moscow would do everything in its power to help Syria liberate its occupied territories at the right time." The Soviet side explained that timing was important, for otherwise there would be a real confrontation between the superpowers.

In response to the third question, the Soviet side "praised Kuwait's policy of non-alignment and the development of Kuwaiti-Soviet relations in general." It expressed its belief that these relations would lead to the establishment of friendly relations between the Arab Gulf states and the Soviet Union.

I met an important Gulf personality who follows Soviet policy towards the region closely, and raised the following question: "Do you believe that the Soviet Union is actually prepared to launch a significant peaceful initiative to end the Iraq-Iran war, especially since Moscow at present has strong relations with Iraq and 'sensible' relations with Iran?"

He replied, "I have heard this same question from several European and American diplomats. In fact, one of them even told me that Moscow intends to repeat its 1965 Tashkent Conference experiment, which led to a Pakistani-Indian 'reconciliation' supervised by Soviet Prime Minister Kosygin." This diplomat told me as well that he would not be surprised if that very day he heard that Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko was in Baghdad and intended to visit Teheran to bring about a peaceful solution to this bloody conflict.

He continued, "Naturally, this is a very tempting idea for the Soviets, and I won't conceal the fact that they are thinking of it and seriously considering it. But Gromyko will not visit Baghdad and Teheran unless he gets prior assurance that the Iranians are ready to come to peace with Iraq and end the war. A little while ago I asked a Soviet official about his country's stand on the Iraq-Iran war and why Moscow had not militarily intervened to end it. His reply was, 'We oppose this war, which benefits only America and Israel, and we support anyone who is inclined towards peace. We are prepared to mediate and help end the war if the two countries request it. We have told both sides that we would approve of their resorting to dialog and negotiation to settle the differences between them.'"

The Gulf personage went on to say, "If Moscow succeeded in ending this war, that would be its greatest diplomatic victory in years, and it would greatly strengthen its position in the Arab world. Therefore, America and the Western countries are taking a strong stand against any peaceful Soviet role in this war."

In Kuwait, Arab political and diplomatic circles are greatly concerned as to whether America and Russia have reached a new "secret agreement" about the Middle East, as a result of Gromyko's negotiations with Reagan and American officials. These circles want to pursue this issue and get more information about it.

Some foreign diplomatic circles say that America and Russia have actually reached a new "secret agreement" about certain matters pertaining to the Middle East crisis--for example, cooperating to ensure the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon, giving a greater role to UN forces in southern Lebanon, reaching a mutual understanding for consultation and coordination over any new peace initiative for the region, and working to prevent the outbreak of another Middle East war. They also say that at one stage the Americans offered to participate in the next peace initiative, in return for greater Soviet "flexibility" in solving the conflict peaceably.

In any case, future developments will reveal whatever the senior officials have actually agreed on. President Hafiz al-Asad might be the first to learn the truth, when he completes his present visit to Moscow and his negotiations with Soviet leaders.

8559

CSO: 4404/68

UNITY AGREEMENTS IN MAGHREB ASSESSED

East Burnham ARABIA THE ISLAMIC WORLD REVIEW in English No 39, Nov 84 pp 14-15

[Text] The Libyan-Moroccan Arab-African Union treaty signed on August 13 was "approved" by a surprisingly decisive referendum in Morocco on August 30 and by the Libyan General People's Congress, the Libyan parliament, on September 1. Meanwhile the Algerians kept up their press campaign against the treaty which they see as directed against them. President Chadli Benjeddid of Algeria said on August 27 that Maghreb unity "cannot be made at any cost," adding that it has to be achieved "methodically...and not though erratic decisions."

Since Chadli came to power, the Algerian regime has emphasised a step-by-step approach to any viable unity among the five North African countries. They consider the Treaty of Brotherhood and Concord, signed with Tunisia in March 1983 and then joined by Mauritania, as the right framework for Maghreb unity. They also believe that the Moroccan-Libyan treaty was designed to sabotage this effort towards unity.

The Treaty of Brotherhood and Concord and the Arab-African Union have little in common. The former regulates the three contracting parties' relations for 20 years but leaves complete freedom to each of them to run their countries the way they want as long as the few principles laid down are not contravened. It is therefore short--just seven articles--and general, leaving room for the introduction of other clauses as the rapprochement between its signatories consolidates.

The Libyan-Moroccan treaty concerns a federation of two states remote from each other politically and geographically and binds them to have closer diplomatic, economic, military and cultural cooperation. Sixteen articles long, it is said to have been prepared with the help of French lawyers.

The Brotherhood treaty puts particular stress on the idea of a united Maghreb and stipulates that the parties will refrain from resorting to threats and force to solve disputes. It has no major commitment which may represent an impediment to national sovereignty. It is open to the other Maghreb countries only, which means Libya and Morocco. Rabat and Tripoli's Arab-African Unity treaty is open to all Arab and African countries.

The parties to the Brotherhood treaty undertake to join "no alliance or coalition of a military or political character" which would be directed against fellow signatories. While stressing the parties' determination to defuse tension, this stipulation is a clever way of nullifying such other local alliances as the Libyan-Moroccan one. The Arab-African Union treaty, on the other hand, includes a defence clause whereby any aggression against one contracting party is considered to be directed against the other. This clause is a source of concern for Algeria which is involved in the Western Saharan war.

Furthermore, the Brotherhood treaty provides for the "inviolability of national borders" and specifies in the introduction that "any treaty of fraternity implies necessarily the settlement of any dispute..." It does not say whether this should happen before or after access to the treaty. In any case, it was this statement which enabled Algeria to oppose Libya's repeated requests to join the Brotherhood treaty. Libya controls the eastern part of the Saharan Ajjer territory and has questioned the Algerian-Libyan borderline between Ghat and Ghadames. Although this is not a major issue, the Algerian authorities wanted it settled before Libya's entry to the Brotherhood treaty was accepted.

Finally, the two treaties tackle what the regimes see as the problem of Islam in different ways. The Libyan-Morocco treaty places Islam in a purely cultural context and refers to "the preservation of the moral and spiritual values founded on the sound teachings of Islam." The emphasis on "soundness" suits both the Libyan and Moroccan regimes. Colonel Qaddafi dismisses the hadith as not authentic--thus unsound--and does not recognise the authority of the ulema and the exegetes. The reaction of the people to this was met with repression: such brilliant imams as Sheikh Bishti were tortured and murdered in November 1980.

In Morocco, the yawning economic disparities in society, the provocative wealth displayed by the royal family, and the violation of basic Islamic values and the moral code under the pressure of westernisation, have all generated protest headed by the Islamists. The king responded by consolidating official Islam, which he had been using to legitimise his rule. A stress on Islamic values in the treaty will only lead to consolidation of both regimes, or so their leaders hope.

The Algerian-Tunisian-Mauritanian Brotherhood treaty is more specific about Islamic activism without actually naming it. Article 4 stipulates among other things that the signatories undertake not to allow on their territories the "organisation and activity of any grouping" likely to harm another party's security or aiming to "change its regime through violence." This is a clear reference to Islamic activism which has been widespread throughout the Maghreb since the mid-1970s and was met with tough repression repeatedly, especially in Tunisia (mainly in July 1981), Algeria (November 1982) and Morocco (mainly in December-January 1984).

There is now serious evidence that the Algerian government was following closely the way President Bourguiba of Tunisia was dealing with the Islamists

in 1981-82, and was encouraged to adopt a similar stance at the end of 1982. Under article 4 of the Brotherhood treaty, Algeria and Tunisia will surely exchange information regarding Islamists' movements and activities and extradite, discreetly, those wanted by the other party.

Consultation and cooperation between Algeria and Tunisia is making headway by stages. The first Treaty of Brotherhood Good Neighbourliness and Cooperation was signed on January 6, 1970. After 13 years two countries renewed their confidence and trust in each other with the new 20-year treaty.

This certainly lends credibility to the Algerian-Tunisian view of Maghreb unity. On the other hand, the obvious political aspect and the nature of the Moroccan-Libyan alliance leaves observers wondering whether it can last. Not one Arab or African country has shown eagerness to join it so far.

Besides, what could be more calculated to undermine the importance of the Libyan-Moroccan treaty and discourage would-be candidates than the speech made on September 1 by Colonel Qaddafi? He said: "I want that the responsibility for the treaty be incumbent on Morocco. Thus if, God forbid, a difficulty crops up we will wash our hands of it."

One difficulty may be in the offing: In the same speech the Libyan leader quoted the Polisario as being one of the future liberators of Palestine....

CSO: 4500/26

LIBYAN OPPOSITION OVERTURE TO IRAQ CRITICIZED

East Burnham ARABIA THE ISLAMIC WORLD REVIEW in English No 39, Nov 84 p 15

[Text] Muslims, justifiably, criticise western double standards on human rights issues. Western governments and media are usually very concerned about human rights violations and the abuse of power in South Africa, the USSR, Latin America, Southeast Asia--or in any place except Muslim countries. Some westerners who are somewhat discreet and diplomatic will tell you, whenever you raise the matter, that they don't "interfere in the internal affairs of sovereign states." Others will tell you blatantly that repression and ruthless authoritarianism is the only suitable and workable way to govern Muslims.

This time, unfortunately, it is Muslims and not westerners who are playing this double standard game against their Muslim brethren. Worse still, these Muslims are not in government--where this hypocritical behaviour is an essential part of the game which they call politics--but are, with much regret, "freedom fighters."

Dr Mohammad Yousof al Mugarief, secretary general of the National Front for the Salvation of Libya, recently sent President Saddam Hussein of Iraq an extremely unusual and lengthy congratulatory message on the occasion of the 16th anniversary of the revolution in Iraq, which totally surpassed the messages of congratulation that are normally exchanged on such occasions.

Over and above its extreme rhetoric and exaggerated style, Dr Mugarief's message--published in the September 1984 issue of the Front's official magazine "Al-Ingadh"--made the following telling statements:

--The Arab nation regards the Iraqi revolution under the blessed leadership of its fighter president with awe and pride and considers it an example to be followed.

--Since President Saddam has led and experienced the brave struggle against the kind of tyranny, barbarism and treason that Qaddafi embodies, the Libyan people and the Front are confident of his full support, in spite of Iraq's difficult circumstances and the betrayal of some of its brethren.

--The Libyan Front looks forward to the day when both Libya and Iraq achieve their decisive victory against the forces of backwardness, tyranny, aggression and treason.

--The Front prays for President Saddam's long life for the sake of Iraq and the support of all righteousness, goodness, and freedom fighters.

If he simply puts himself in the shoes of the Iraqi opposition which, among other Arabs, looks upon Qaddafi as a kind of novice student in the art of tyranny in comparison to what they consider--justly or unjustly--to be Saddam's dreadful record of mass murder, torture and repression, one is apt to feel more than betrayal and rage. Mugarief and his colleagues would surely feel the same if the Iraqi opposition were to send such an obsequious message to Qaddafi.

In the course of the ceaseless turmoil that cripples Muslims everywhere, and the relentless repression which characterises most of their modern history Mugarief's action has a special significance and dimension and ought to raise many issues. Should ethics and morals have any relevance to or bearing on political struggle? Some will say yes, and they will argue that such relevance and bearing will yield, in the final analysis, serious practical consequences. Others will be inclined to think of a whole issue of morality and ethics as a naive intellectual luxury or obsession that a politician should not concern himself with.

It will be surprising, however, if the Libyan Salvation Front follows the latter school of thought since they have had, very recently, the bitter taste of this when their former patron King Hassan of Morocco handed over to Qaddafi two of the Front's prominent members (Omer al Mehaishi and Mohammad al Sleeney) to be tortured and executed. According to reliable sources in the Front, the king later on handed over Nori Hemaidah al Fallah, the head of the Front bureau, in Rabat. Al Fallah disappeared at Rabat airport after a meeting with General Ali al Rasheedi, the chief of Moroccan intelligence, who is considered by the Front to be very sympathetic and cooperative. Such sensitive missions are usually carried out, according to the Libyan Front, by the special intelligence branch which is affiliated to the Royal Court and receives instructions from the king personally.

One of the noteworthy characteristics, especially in the Arab world, is that in spite of all the deep-seated conflicts and disagreements between various warring regimes their intelligence apparatuses maintain very close cooperation and an information exchange system. To a great extent this does not exist between the various opposition movements in the area, except on a very limited scale and of a primitive nature.

Notwithstanding, in the Muslim world in general, the people--who are the real reservoir of any opposition movement--are not in the least receptive to the Machiavellian approach to politics. Hence if, as they seem to be contemplating, the Libyan Front decides to adopt this approach they will not only be more isolated than they are now but they will also be seen by the public in the same ilk as Qaddafi and Hassan, and will be expected to behave the same way once they are in power. Thus they will defeat their own purposes.

To be fair, however, one should not forget that the Libyan Front is a novice in the jungle of realpolitik and thus they ought, initially, to behave like

inexperienced amateurs. Mugarief could have phrased his message to President Saddam Hussein in a totally different way which would serve the purpose adequately without being so rhetorical and bombastic. He didn't have to, unnecessarily, make such belligerent references in his message to Iran or anybody else. Mugarief could have sent the same provocative message but have avoided publishing it in the Front's official magazine. During the peak of their bloody struggle against President Hafez Assad, the Syrian opposition collaborated with the Iraqi regime, obtained some help from Iraq and operated from Iraqi territory without any such fanfare.

One final indictment of Mugarief's message ought to be recorded--it was phrased totally in a nationalistic tone. Knowing the Islamic background of Mugarief himself and most of his colleagues, it is apparent that they have developed a great deal of flexibility and a readiness to be reconditioned psychologically and politically to cope with the ever-changing circumstances and requirements of the jungle of politics. This will drag the Libyan Front further into the treacherous waters of realpolitik in which they need all the manoeuvring skills in the world to keep themselves afloat--and they will have very little claim, if any, to be "freedom fighters."

CSO: 4500/26

PAPER COMMENTS ON 'RUSSIANIZATION' OF SOVIET ARMENIA

GF281734 Beirut AZTAG in Armenian 13 Nov 84 p 4

[Article by V. Prudyan: "New Fines to Pay?"]

[Excerpts] Besides other decisions, the Soviet Communist Party decided "to take into account the national structure of the Armenian SSR population with more importance in the election of the leading cadres." "The Armenians should not occupy the privileged posts to the disadvantage of the minorities in the republic, such as the Azerbaijanis, Russians, Kurds, Ukrainians, Greeks and Assyrians."

As we already stated there is nothing new about the fact that the heavy Russian paw always tries to keep Armenia and the Armenians under pressure.

In recent years, after the Russianization, there has been every reason to think that the Kremlin leadership has many similarities with the Tsarist regime, even though it calls itself a "socialist" regime. Here is the latest evidence. The recent decisions of the Soviet Communist Party propose to develop Soviet patriotism in the youths, to give further incentive to the Russian language as well as "to take into account and place more importance on the national structure of the Armenian SSR population," and so forth, simply to make it possible to increase the number of non-Armenians in Soviet Armenia's governmental structure. Non-Armenians constitute only 11 percent of Armenia's population.

We do not wish to be misunderstood. We have never supported racism or other types of discrimination which can only bring evil to humanity. Consequently, we agree that the national minorities should not be ignored in any way, wherever they are.

However, this is not what the Soviet leadership is looking for, because these decisions assume that the Soviet leadership can place a Russian or Ukrainian official in any key position. In fact, for years now efforts have been made to "internationalize" and "Russianize" the national face of all Soviet republics, including Soviet Armenia. That is, turn the republics into multi-national states by means of populating them with Russian or foreign elements to change their national face. In the final analysis, the Soviet Union is a union of republics. These republics are purely administrative structures and

not political ones. For this reason all residents carry Soviet citizenship and not citizenship of this or that national republic. There are no national and political borders or different citizenships; there is onnly one country, the Soviet Union, and one citizenship, Soviet citizenship. These denominators facilitate the work of the Soviet leadership. Through the strengthening of the "internationalist" education of the new generation and reserving important positions only for those who are fluent in Russian, perhaps tomorrow they will change all governmental operations and transcriptions of Soviet Armenia into Russian through the loyal and trustworthy Russian and Ukrainian officials. On this same course, tomorrow--in the name of internationalist principles and as a practical step to eliminate the "privileged" ones--someone like Nikolayev may be appointed in place of Karen Demirchyan.

What about the Armenians in the Soviet diaspora? What will happen to the more than 2 million Armenians living in various parts of the Soviet Union? Will they be able to restore their lost rights in the republics that they reside in light of the Communist Party's decision? Will the few thousand Armenians in Baku be able to reopen over 70 Armenian schools which have been closed for 40 years? After 1920, the Armenians in Krasnodar numbered 60,000 people with 140 schools; today, over 100,000 Armenians in Kransnodar have only 4 schools. Will the 136 closed schools be reopened on the basis of the decision not to neglect national minorities and eliminate the "privileges" of the local majorities? Will the Armenian newspapers that were closed in 1921 be published again?

Our questions should trouble each Armenian because the Soviet leadership abandoned the Armenian diaspora in the Soviet Union a long time ago.

Karabakh, Nakhichevan and Akhalkalak today remain to be usurped from Armenia. A massive blood tax was collected from our people in 1930; and immediately after the emigration new exiles were imposed on us and many of us "emigrated" directly to Siberia without being able to set foot on Armenian land. All this was done in the name of internationalism, socialism and the "beautiful" principles of the unity of free nations.

Today, the waves of the Russianization of the past 15 years are being followed by new steps which intend to deteriorate the national character of our people, turn the more than three million Armenian SSR population into a multi-national society, and destroy its homogenous characteristics.

It seems that this is the latest fine we must pay to the Soviet ranks. Will the Armenians continue to sit with folded hands against all of this?

CSO: 4605/43

REGULATION OF SUBSIDIES EXPLORED

Pros and Cons of Subsidies

London AL-AHRAM: AL-TAB'AH AL-DUWALIYAH in Arabic 19 Oct 84 p 7

[Article by Dr Ahmad Jami', Professor of Economics at 'Ayn Shams University]

[Text] Neither decisions made in offices nor theories formulated in academia can solve the problem of subsidies. The problem of subsidies can be solved by scientific field studies that are realistic and integrated. Along with statistics, figures and diagrams, such studies would enable us to measure the pulse of the Egyptian mainstream and keep a close eye on the cost of living compared with the structure of wages and prices, particularly for the vast majority of people who lead a life of subsistence and also for people living on fixed incomes.

It is for this reason that President Mubarak has charged university professors, organizations, institutions and economists with the task of submitting their suggestions on the issue of subsidies. It is an issue with which the president has been pre-occupied. The president is always affirming, "I find myself favoring the vast majority of the people who are living on fixed incomes."

It is in the context of this national dialogue that Dr Ahmad Jami', professor at 'Ayn Shams University, thinks that abolishing subsidies would not be possible. He thinks that subsidies are the only means by which national revenues can be redistributed in the interests of the vast majority of the people. He thinks they are the only means by which social peace and social justice can be established.

Dr Wajdi Husayn, professor of economics at al-Mansurah University thinks that subsidies for production or consumption have to be temporary and determined by conditions. He agrees with Dr Ahmad Jami' that what is more important to the worsening problem of effective subsidies and what will have the most profound effect on it would be action to confront waste and loss due to excessive consumption or to the fact that subsidies are reaching those who are not entitled to them.

Can subsidies be abolished in the first place? What does setting the right course for subsidies mean precisely? How is the price of a subsidized commodity

and the price of a non-subsidized commodity determined? Finally, it is the most intractable of all problems that remains: How can the problem of bread and flour in particular be solved? Is it inevitable that all prices be increased at once on the same day of the year?

I will concentrate exclusively in this study on the subject of direct subsidies. These are subsidies that show up in the state's general budget under the item, "Appropriations To Reduce the Burdens of the Cost of Living." In the last budget these appropriations amounted to 2.58 billion pounds. About 800 million pounds of this amount are spent on wheat. I make this statement even as I concede that a discussion of the problem of subsidies in Egypt will have to be broadened to include other matters that are related to the subject of direct subsidies. These matters are impeding the course of the Egyptian economy at the present time.

Subsidies are ultimately one of the means by which national revenues can be redistributed by the state in the interests of people on fixed incomes. These revenues are redistributed to achieve social peace between various groups in society. Subsidies are considered indispensable in any society that has two characteristics. First, there has to be a noticeable discrepancy in the distribution of incomes between the various classes and groups in a society. Second, lower income groups in that society have to be unable to achieve a minimum suitable standard of living in accordance with price levels for essential commodities, if the prices of these commodities are determined by the forces of supply and demand. Since these two characteristics can be found in Egyptian society at the present time, it is absolutely necessary that subsidies continue.

However, the fact that subsidies should be continued does not at all mean that they should be continued in their present condition. In fact, it is our opinion that two changes have to be made in the subsidy system. The first change has to do with the organizational framework of subsidies. The second has to do with the form they assume. As far as the organizational framework of subsidies is concerned, we think that it is necessary to establish an agency independent of the government. That agency would be called the Subsidy Fund, and the state would annually earmark for it from the general budget those funds that it decides will be used for subsidies. The fund would use those funds to reduce during a year the burdens of the cost of living borne by people living on fixed incomes.

This agency has to operate without red tape, and it should not become filled with civil servants whose presence is not required by the agency's operations. The agency should not have any employees who are there to take advantage of the salaries and allowances that they would receive in those positions, as was the case with the Public Organization for Investments. The fund would be managed by a board of directors which would be chaired by the minister of finance. The fund would replace the supply sector that exists now in the Ministry of Supply and Domestic Trade. The other sector in that ministry--the sector of domestic trade--will have to re-merge with the foreign trade sector which exists at the present time in the Ministry of the Economy. Thus there would be one ministry for both domestic and foreign trade, in view of the extremely close ties that exist between domestic and foreign trade. That relationship is due to the fact that it is national production that determines the volume of both kinds of trade. This means that basic decisions in one area of trade cannot be made separately from those decisions that are made in the other area.

The fund would determine which groups are entitled to subsidies, and it would distribute subsidy cards to families. It would also distribute the subsidized goods, all of which, except for bread, would be listed on the subsidy cards. The quantity each individual is to receive of each subsidized commodity and the amount that the fund will have to pay to subsidize that commodity would also be noted on the subsidy card. That amount will be the difference between the economic price of a commodity, which is determined by the cost of its production--and that includes a legitimate profit for the producer--and what I previously called "the social price." This is the price recommended by the fund as one that individuals living on fixed incomes can pay for the commodity without any surcharge. The fund would pay the difference in the form of aid to that firm which is producing the subsidized commodity. It is worth noting that in such a case what we have is called a material subsidy.

The second way in which subsidies can be changed has to do with the form or shape of the subsidy. That change can be brought about by shifting, one commodity at a time, from the aforementioned material subsidy to a monetary subsidy. This can be done by dropping one commodity from subsidy cards and allowing that commodity to be sold at the economic price. At the same time the incomes of lower income people who have those cards would be increased. These people are basically government employees, employees of some public sector agencies and retired people. Of course those funds that will be saved by the public treasury as a result of dropping the material subsidy for that commodity will be the same as those funds that will be outlaid for increasing the forementioned incomes. It is possible to effect the shift from material subsidies to monetary subsidies gradually over approximately a 5-year period, according to the circumstances of each commodity. Thus, the time may come when all commodities will be sold in the market at their economic price. This situation is basically indispensable to the process of making wise economic decisions.

What exactly is the meaning of setting the right course for subsidies? The widely known meaning of that expression is this: ensuring that the subsidies reach only those who are entitled to them, that is, people on fixed incomes. In my opinion, however, this meaning is secondary to the primary one of eliminating all the economic waste that accompanies the process of getting the subsidies to those who are entitled to them. Because of this waste the government spends funds that are listed in the budget as subsidy outlays even though they do not benefit those who are entitled to the subsidies. It would be enough to mention here that wheat is the commodity receiving the largest subsidy, and we do not have to repeat here what we all know about aspects of waste in the subsidy for wheat.

How is the price of a subsidized commodity determined in a subsidy system, and how is the price of a non-subsidized commodity determined? Except for bread, each subsidized commodity will have two prices: a subsidized price and a non-subsidized price. The subsidized price, which is the price for which a subsidized commodity will be sold to those who have subsidy cards, will be determined in accordance with a number of considerations. The most important of these are subsidy appropriations for the year; the number of subsidized commodities; the quantities of these commodities that will be sold through subsidy cards; the economic price for the commodity, which will be based on its real cost; and the relative importance of that commodity to people on fixed incomes who have subsidy cards.

The non-subsidized price is the price for which a subsidized commodity may be sold without subsidy cards to anyone who wishes to purchase it. That includes people on fixed incomes and others. That price will be set by the supply that is available for that commodity and the demand for it from consumers. Supply is determined by producers and is particularly affected by production costs. Consumer demand, however, is particularly affected by consumers' ability to satisfy their need for that commodity. Thus, that price would be the market price or the economic price, which is indispensable as an essential foundation for managing the national economy on sound professional bases. On the one hand, the market price or the economic price is the only factor that can determine the quantities that must be produced of every product from the limited economic resources that are available. On the other hand, it provides the only guarantee that no commodity will be misused as a result of the fact that its sale price has been reduced below its economic price. What is important here is that a commodity become available at either the market price or the economic price without subsidy cards.

With regard to bread, I believe that the solution which has recently been reached and whose application has begun is quite suitable at the present time.

How can the problem of wheat flour in particular be solved?

With regard to wheat flour, we begin with the situation that prevailed before this October. A 100 kilogram sack of flour, 82 percent free of impurities, used to be sold, or rather was supposed to be sold to the public in the cooperative grocery stores for consumers for 6 pounds and 50 milliemes. Actually, however, these sacks of flour used to be taken out of these stores and loaded on trucks as people standing in line watched angrily. From there the flour was taken to black market grocery store owners, to the owners of confectioners stores and to bakeries. Average citizens, however, had to go to these grocery stores where they paid between 11 and 12 pounds for the same sack of flour. On the 1st of October the government raised the price of a sack of flour to 11 pounds and 80 piasters. To justify that increase officials stated that the new price was the same price in the free market that citizens used to pay to black market merchants for flour. But on the same day, the 1st of October, citizens were buying a sack of flour in the free market and paying between 16 and 17 pounds for it.

That was a logical and an expected outcome in a system where prices are set by administrative bureaucrats. This is what happens when the prices of essential goods are based on administrative, bureaucratic principles and not on professional economic principles. Changing the price of a commodity by bureaucratic fiat to bring that price closer to that of the free market at the time is not what is required. What is required is a change in the method by means of which the price of a commodity is determined. Price should be left alone; it should be determined by the forces of the market on the basis of real costs. This is the opinion that we have expressed repeatedly in past years. This is the opinion that was disregarded last April when the exchange rate for the dollar was set by a bureaucratic administrative decree. As a result, the price of the dollar on the free market now is 130 piasters. When that decision was made, the price was 120 piasters. When will we learn?

Therefore, the solution I am calling for to the problem of wheat flour involves

including ordinary flour only on subsidy cards. This flour should be packaged in sacks or bags that are proportionate to the quantities that will be set for individuals receiving subsidies. The flour is to be sold at a subsidized price, and that price is to be determined according to the forementioned considerations. This ordinary flour would be treated like all other subsidized commodities. This flour, when sold without a subsidy card to any citizen who wishes to buy it, and superior quality flour as well would be available for sale for the market price or the economic price only. However, the flour must be made available. If the state is unable to make both kinds of flour available, then the private sector should be allowed to make them available at the market price.

Is it inevitable that price increases come all at once, on one day of the year?

What has been noticed in past years is that government officials who are responsible for the national economy deliberately collect all the price increases they want for the whole year to reduce the burden on the budget, and they make those increases go into effect on one day only: the first day of the fiscal year. As a result, the few weeks that precede that day are usually very tense for the masses who apprehensively await those price increases that will be imposed on them on that dreadful day. In most cases there are instances of social unrest around these days, with people protesting these unfair price increases.

If this is the case, is there another quick way by means of which the state's revenues can be increased in the near future so that the burden of subsidies can be dealt with? Fortunately, there is. It is a simple way: one that is extremely fair socially and one whose burden will not be borne by people living on fixed incomes. The state's revenues can be increased by raising the prices of goods and services that are consumed by groups other than those living on fixed incomes.

Since achieving social justice among citizens is the only guaranteed way for establishing social peace, I am calling for measures to be taken to increase the prices of some goods and services. The following is an illustrative and not a comprehensive list of what may be done:

--The price of 1 liter of gas is to be increased from 15 to 20 piasters.

--License fees for private automobiles are to be increased.

--Annual subscription rates for telephone services are to be increased 100 percent.

--Taxes paid on parties that are held in hotels and public clubs are to be increased 100 percent.

--The fee for leaving the country to travel abroad is to be increased from 4 to 25 pounds. I have no doubt that anyone who earns a large income and who has at least a small measure of sound thinking will welcome these capitalist measures whose aim is to achieve social justice.

Subsidies Create Indifference

London AL-AHRAM: AL-TAB'AH AL-DUWALIYAH in Arabic 19 Oct 84 p 7

[Article by Dr Wajdi Husayn, Chairman of the Department of Economics at the College of Business at al-Mansurah University]

[Text] I am delighted that the ruling party is presenting to the public a discussion on the question of subsidies. I am delighted that it is asking them to consider the possibility of abolishing subsidies as a means of dealing with the problem of the deficit in the general budget. This democracy of opinion, particularly in relation to the process of considering and studying our economic problems, is backed up by statements that have occasionally been made by the president. The president has spoken about the need and importance of public awareness about the real magnitude of these problems. The president said that citizens must know the unequivocal and clear truth about our situation and our capabilities so that they would not have haphazard and irresponsible expectations. Such awareness would keep economic sector officials from making arbitrary, despotic or experimental decisions.

But before I contribute my opinion on the matter of the deficit and the subject of subsidies, I would like to allude to three reservations I have whose importance may supercede that of the deficit or that of the question of subsidies.

First, the question of subsidies accounts for only a limited part of the pricing policy in the national economy. There isn't enough space here to mention anything more than the fact that the policy of setting the right course for prices in Egypt--prices for finished or intermediate goods--requires careful scrutiny. This policy should be considered by a specialized central agency that would have access to statistics and data to ensure that a sound analysis is conducted of all the factors that influence the forces of supply and demand for goods and services and affect their prices in the short term and the long term.

Second, although consumer price subsidies or subsidies for agricultural requirements may not be a successful remedy in the eyes of those who are enthusiastic now about abolishing subsidies, what is most important to the worsening problem of subsidy effectiveness and what will have the profoundest effect on it is action to confront factors of loss and waste. These are manifested in excessive consumption by individuals, in the subsidies reaching those who are not entitled to them or in subsidies being used for purposes other than those for which they were intended. Such waste either distorts the consumption habits of a large segment of consumers or, on the other hand, it ruins and distorts management of agricultural societies that sell agricultural requirements to farmers. In this instance I think that it is the responsibility of parties--both the ruling party and opposition parties--to take it upon themselves to do what is necessary to inform the public. Consumer conduct can thus be set on the right course, and aspects of excessive consumption as well the waste and loss that have been tarnishing both individual and government consumer spending can be resisted. Besides, such awareness would place emphasis on the moral side of administrative conduct and do away with the causes of loss and waste in society's resources. In addition, such awareness would fight all aspects of bribery, favoritism and corruption.

Third, the invitation to discuss an economic matter that concerns all of society is a democratic invitation to give well-informed, responsible consideration to a problem and to approve a wise opinion on the matter so that adherence to that opinion would be based on the conviction of the majority. Such an invitation is a wise one, and we hope it will create an opportunity for constructive participation by the people in the decision making process, whether that decision has to do with the matter of subsidies, with the deficit in the general budget or with any one of our other important economic and social problems.

Regardless what opinion is reached after discussion and deliberation, that opinion will be tantamount to a commitment that will have to be respected by all of society, even if it involved sacrificing immediate things to achieve the far-away objective of strengthening our economy, correcting its course and increasing its rates of growth. If we could always achieve such a formula of harmony and unity which the majority would find convincing, and if we could achieve that formula through an informed, constructive dialogue, we would avoid having some people feel that the government is making arbitrary, unilateral decisions in managing affairs and that it is not taking into consideration the aspirations and convictions of the man in the street. If we followed such a formula, we would also avoid--and this is most important--the masses' passive attitude and their indifference to their duties and obligations as compared with the rights they are demanding and the privileges they are insisting upon.

It is for these reasons that we hope the scope of the discussions and the exchange of opinions will be expanded to include more of our economic and social problems, besides those that have to do with the subsidies and the deficit. A proper view of the kind and nature of our problems would thus become clear, and everyone would be able to make a contribution to the effort to solve those problems and overcome their difficulties.

If we were to go back to the subject of subsidies, we would have the following observations.

--Subsidies for production or consumption must be temporary and must depend on the circumstances under which such subsidies are determined. Ever since Frederick (Liszt) called for a policy of protectionism, the temporary nature of protective and assistance systems has been a constant principle. Protective measures should not exceed the time period that is necessary for an industry to make progress or to improve production conditions. Extending those measures beyond that time period would cause producers and consumers to become indifferent, and it would make them continue to rely on artificial protection. This would stifle the spirit of competition that is necessary to cut production costs and improve efficiency so that ideal, competitive production levels can be reached.

--Considering abolishing subsidies for consumer goods or for agricultural requirements must be accompanied by at least partial improvement in the incomes of those who are entitled to those subsidies. Thus, the creation of a sudden burden for these groups would be avoided, and agricultural producers would be afforded a fair price for their crops.

--I would also like to allude to the important role that price control agencies

play, particularly with regard to essential consumer goods. I noticed that some people are overly optimistic in calling for letting the forces of supply and demand rule in the marketplace. These forces of supply and demand may be tarnished and distorted by those in the private sector who would exercise their exploitative monopoly in the marketplace by overpricing goods or contriving to create congestion in the distribution of these goods. Ultimately, the victim of such practices is none other than the individual consumer or the small producer.

8592

CSO: 4504/82

MUSTAFA KAMIL MURAD INTERVIEWED

London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Oct 84 p 6

[Interview with Mustafa Kamil Murad, President of the Liberal Party: "I Will Take My Case against the Wafd and Grouping Parties to Court and Ask for Justice; If the Opposition Had Listened to Me, We Would Have All Been in Parliament!" in Cairo]

[Text] Lately, the expectation that the Socialist Liberal Party will fade away from the scene has grown. That expectation was created when the party failed to win one percent of the vote in the recent elections. It was also brought about by the fact that the president of the party is being investigated by more than one monitoring agency in Egypt and by the fact that a struggle over the presidency of the party has emerged between the president and the vice president of the party.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT interviewed Mustafa Kamil Murad, the chairman of the Socialist Liberal Party. During the interview Mr Murad revealed secrets about the investigations that were being conducted by the administrative prosecution to look into some of the violations that were committed by the company whose board of directors is chaired by Mr Murad. The Accounting Agency has also commented on Mr Murad's method of managing the company's business.

Mustafa Kamil Murad asserted that he has not been accused of anything, and he indicated that he was suing the two newspapers, AL-WAFD and AL-AHALI for publishing what he said was false information about these investigations.

Mr Murad also denied that there was a struggle between him and the vice president of the party because there was no one holding that position. It has been vacant since the resignation of Salah al-Rifa'i before the elections.

Mr Murad spoke ardently to rebut the charges that are being made against the party. The party is accused of playing a limited role in the political party movement and of having a marginal presence on the political scene. The party is being accused of becoming a mere newspaper without a party, particularly since it's been upstaged by the Wafd Party as the sole, legitimate representative of right wing forces in Egypt. The text of the interview follows.

[Question] One of the things that has attracted attention is what has been said

recently on a large scale even in opposition newspapers. It is being said that Mustafa Kamil Murad is being investigated by many monitoring agencies in Egypt for financial and administrative violations.

[Answer] I believe that this is not true at all even though the Central Accounting Agency has made some comments on the impermissibility of holding two public sector jobs. The agency has also commented on the fact that I founded some companies, and I was told that I had to have written approval of that. I did assure them that I did have verbal approval from President al-Sadat himself and that it was given to me in the presence of Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil and Minister of Trade Zakariyah Tawfiq.

The agency also objected to the fact that these projects had not been approved by the Ministry of Planning. So we took up the matter with the General Assembly; we sent a request for the ministers' approval; and we finished with this matter. Objections were made to the fact that we were engaged in the construction of administrative buildings, such as the cotton complex, because we are not a contracting firm. Our explanation was that we were building offices for our firm and our affiliates. We stated that this was a singular experience and that it would not be repeated. All the preceding comments were made by the Central [Accounting] Agency when the companies' budgets were being looked into. It was natural that our response to these observations would come through the General Assembly.

[Question] But some of the cases did go to the administrative prosecution, did they not?

[Answer] I did not deny that. The administrative prosecution did conduct an investigation in 1978 and in 1980, but I was not questioned at all. The investigation was confined to a few company managers.

I believe it is inevitable that a few excesses occur in a company that has a staff of 1,400 employees and workers plus 800 seasonal employees, a company whose volume of operations amounts to 200 million pounds, a company which has 12 branches in the country, and a company that purchases one sixth of Egypt's cotton crop. It was these excesses that were being investigated. For example, automobiles were being misused; at one time two vehicles were designated for the use of the Socialist Union; a legal marriage clerk was appointed as a seasonal worker; and some company leaders were given bonuses as vacation allowances. Guarantees were also given to the Pharaonic Company which is an affiliate of the Eastern Company.

I referred in the last point I made to the fact that we hold shares in that company for about 1 million pounds. In addition, we hold 600,000 pounds worth of shares in the Land Transportation Company. I hold approximately 98.5 percent of the company's shares. Therefore, I have to provide a guarantee for the company's business.

A Partisan Case

[Question] But what is the explanation for the fact that the two newspapers, AL-AHALI and AL-WAFD devoted themselves to the task of magnifying these violations and publicizing them?

[Answer] I still believe that that was a strange posture. AL-WAFD claimed that the Eastern Company was facing tremendous losses, so I sent the newspaper a rebuttal and attached to it the company's budget which affirmed that the company's profits had reached 4.8 million. Therefore, I will go to court to seek justice against the newspapers of the Grouping Party and the Wafd Party.

[Question] It is also being said that violations have been committed in al-Fistat Housing Society that you are managing. [Is that true?]

[Answer] On the contrary, there were no financial violations. What happened is that we built 72 residential units. At the time of turning the apartments over to the occupants, some people broke into them and did not wait for their turn. We notified the public prosecution to have them evicted so we could follow the rules of distribution.

The comments that were made by members of the society indicated there was a delay in turning over the apartments. This is a distinguishing characteristic of any construction project in Egypt because construction contractors do not meet their deadlines. But the society has nothing to do with that; it gains nothing from these delays.

[Question] It is also being said that attempts are being made within the party to remove Mustafa Kamil Murad from the party. It is being said that the vice president of the party is the one leading those attempts.

[Answer] We do not have a vice president in the party because Salah al-Rifa'i, the former vice president, resigned before the elections campaign. Although the party's bylaws permit me to appoint a vice president, I preferred to wait until the next party elections, which will take place at the end of next month.

[Question] But the man we are referring to is Muhammad 'Abd-al-Shafi.

[Answer] Muhammad 'Abd-al-Shafi was the party's manager, but he resigned from the party and joined the Wafd. However, he has rejoined the Liberal Party. There was some talk about not accepting him in the party, but I intervened to have his application for reinstatement approved because he was one of the founders of the party.

Let me affirm that he was not reinstated as the party's manager or vice president, but as an ordinary member of the party. The next elections will show that my popularity in the party is strong. I do not believe that Muhammad 'Abd-al-Shafi is leading such attempts.

A One-Man Party

[Question] One of the significant comments that has been made about the Liberal Party is that it is a one-man party, that is, that Mustafa Kamil Murad is the party.

[Answer] I am merely one of the founders. The party's existence is not based on Mustafa Kamil Murad only. The party can be found in 20 of Egypt's governorates, and it has more than 18 offices. I believe that the president of a party may

exercise considerable influence during the stage of building and establishing the party, but the democratic process within a party allows new leaders to emerge on the scene. In the next stage, and particularly after the party's general convention is held late next November, we will try to come up with new leaders for the party through the elections that will include the office of the president and the offices of managers, the secretary general, the political office, the permanent council and the general secretariat. We will look for means by which we can stimulate and attract new members for the party, and we will also investigate the matter of increasing the party's financial revenues.

[Question] Some people are saying that the golden age of the Liberal Party has come to an end, particularly since the Wafd has reclaimed its position of defending the interests of the right-wing in Egypt. It is being said that the Wafd has pulled the rug from under the feet of the Liberal Party.

[Answer] I believe that this is true to a large extent because we were the only liberal party. However, the return of the Wafd created a broad movement that polarized even the members of the Liberal Party.

However, we were not the only party affected by the emergence of the Wafd; the Labor Party and the Grouping Party were also affected because some people thought that the Wafd had a better opportunity than the other opposition parties did. In addition, the name, al-Wafd, is attractive to some older people and to a large number of intellectuals, particularly members of professional associations, such as attorneys, physicians and engineers. Thus, some intellectuals quickly joined the Wafd, not because they liked the party, but because they frowned upon what was taking place.

In addition, the Wafd attracted all those people who had been hurt by the July Revolution as a result of the nationalization or sequestration of property. In addition, the Wafd attracted young people who were not satisfied with any of the existing conditions and any of the existing parties. These young people found that the Wafd would give them a good opportunity for political activity.

[Question] Some people are accusing the Liberal Party of being a party without a clear program. [Is that true?]

[Answer] On the contrary, we believe that our party's program is one of the clearest party programs in Egypt. It calls for a moderate socialism and it concentrates on political liberties as the means by which social justice can be achieved. Our party believes that social justice can be achieved by having a minimum wage that would be increased annually at a rate that would be commensurate with price increases.

We are also demanding that the private sector be given the freedom, the incentive and the opportunity to invest. Total private sector savings amount to 7 billion dollars, and that is more than the government's savings. We also believe that the economic crisis should be corrected by achieving equality between the public sector and the private sector. The private sector provides 45 percent of the nation's revenues, but its contribution [to the economy] does not exceed 22 percent, that is, half of its share. Instead of contributing 55 percent, the public sector's contribution amounts to 78 percent. Therefore, it has to borrow

and to print currency, and that increases inflation. Therefore, we are asking that the private sector be encouraged so we can reduce the pressures of inflation in Egypt and use real savings in making investments.

[Question] The recent elections have confirmed that the Liberal Party is playing quite a marginal role on the political scene in Egypt. What do you think about that phenomenon, and what is your explanation for it?

[Answer] A cursory view of the Liberal Party's latest results and a comparison between those results and the results of the first elections the party was involved in confirm such an analysis on the surface, particularly since we got less than one percent of the total vote in the recent elections. In the 1976 elections, however, we won 21 seats and about 450,000 votes. That is, we won one eighth of the total votes that were cast.

Such an analysis, however, does not take into consideration the circumstances of the recent elections campaign. We did not have an opportunity to provide candidates for 48 precincts, that is, about 1,000 candidates. This forced us to run in 28 precincts only. There were reasons why we lost in the recent elections. One of those reasons is that we did not have the financial resources we needed. The publicity budget was 100,000 pounds, and that is not enough for publicity in 10 precincts only. The fact that we did not grasp the implications of the law kept us from coming forward with the incomplete lists that we had; we could have completed those lists later. That made many people doubt that we could win the eight percent [that were required].

In addition, there were schemes against the party. As a result of these schemes, the vice president and his deputy resigned during the campaign. Therefore, we tried to form a coalition among the opposition parties. The Wafd declined to join the coalition, but the Labor and Grouping parties did. We were in the process of compiling one list, but it was the fact that everyone was preoccupied with the elections that caused the process of establishing a coalition to fail. If this coalition had been successful, the three parties would have won more than 20 seats, and that would have guaranteed that we would be represented in the present parliament.

[Question] The Liberal Party is being accused of being a tame opposition party. [Is that true?]

[Answer] Why are those people forgetting that President al-Sadat suspended the publication of AL-AHRAR in August of 1978 because we were dealing with the subject of preventing Mustafa Amin from writing? Publication of AL-AHRAR was resumed in May 1979.

Why is everyone forgetting that it was the Liberal Party that led the real opposition after the system of platforms was approved and the platforms were turned into parties? It was I who had the honor of leading the opposition for the first time in the history of Egypt.

8592

CSO: 4504/82

INVESTMENTS IN PHOSPHATE PROCESSING

Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ZEITUNG/BLICK DURCH DIE WIRTSCHAFT in German 2 Nov 84 p 2

[Article: "Morocco Invests in Phosphate Processing: Largest Buyer of Phosphate in 1983 Was Spain; Several Joint Ventures Involved"]

[Text] (W.A.N.) Frankfurt--In order to achieve significantly higher export earnings, Morocco, the world's leading exporter of phosphates, is above all promoting the processing of phosphate rock into phosphoric acid and fertilizers within its borders. According to the 1983 annual report of the state-owned Office Cherifien des Phosphates (OCP) of Casablanca, last year Morocco also became number one in the world in terms of exports of phosphoric acid. Morocco's share of world-wide exports of phosphoric acid increased to 33.7 percent in 1983, compared to 17.4 percent in 1979.

In 1983 Morocco exported 13.976 million metric tons of phosphate worth 3.331 billion dirhams (one dirham = about DM 0.32). In 1982 the same amount of phosphate, 13.976 million metric tons, was exported with somewhat higher earnings of 3.445 billion dirhams. The most important customers in 1983 were Spain (2.27 million metric tons), France (1.68 million metric tons), Belgium (1.53 million metric tons) and Poland (1.20 million metric tons). The FRG imported 442,085 metric tons of phosphate in 1983 as opposed to 365,235 metric tons the year before. In 1983 exports of phosphoric acid increased to 870,637 metric tons (2.127 billion dirhams) compared to 664,474 metric tons (1.585 billion dirhams) in 1982. India headed the list of importing countries in 1983 with 276,348 metric tons. Turkey was next (231,064 metric tons), followed by Indonesia (133,584), Italy (78,600) and the FRG (60,270). In 1983 fertilizer exports showed an increase to 807,417 metric tons (920 million dirhams). In 1982 it was 432,794 metric tons (467 million dirhams).

With the current projects the OCP is attempting to increase the amount of phosphate rock mined to 33.1 million metric tons annually and to expand Morocco's own processing capacity to 10.6 million metric tons of phosphate rock. In the first half of 1984 Moroccan exports of phosphoric acid increased by no less than 61 percent over the same period the year before to 596,197 metric tons. Morocco is also interested in involvement in a joint venture abroad for which they could supply the phosphate rock and phosphoric acid.

Two additional phosphoric acid plants (Maroc Phosphore III and IV) are currently being built at the new Atlantic port of Jorf Lasfar about 120 km south of Casablanca (also see the report in the December 20, 1983 edition, "Higher Phosphate Production Expected in Morocco"). Each plant will have four production lines with a daily capacity of 500 metric tons each. At the beginning of August 1984 a French consortium consisting of Technip S.A., a plant engineering firm, and Pec Engineering, which belongs to the French Entreprise Miniere et Chimique (EMC), won a contract worth 650 million French francs for the construction of a fertilizer factory in Jorf Lasfar. This factory is to have an annual capacity of a million metric tons of diammonium phosphate (DAP), 400,000 metric tons of triple superphosphate and 200,000 metric tons of ammonium sulfate phosphate. The fertilizers are to be produced using processes developed by the French firm CDF-Chimie. France will finance the entire project. The fertilizer complex is expected to begin operation by the end of 1986.

Plans for a joint venture involving Morocco, Saudi Arabia and India are already well along and concern the construction of a large fertilizer complex to be located in either Jubail or Yanbu in Saudi Arabia. This fertilizer complex, for which capital expenditures are expected to reach about \$300 million, will produce phosphoric acid, ammonia and diammonium phosphate. The major portion of these products could be exported to India. Morocco would supply the production facility at the fertilizer complex with about 1.4 million metric tons of phosphate rock annually, and Saudi Arabia would supply the approximately 500,000 metric tons of sulfur, as well as the natural gas, needed for the production of ammonia.

The OCP and the People's Republic of China are currently negotiating a second joint venture. The first phase of this project involves the production of diammonium phosphate in China based on phosphoric acid imported from Morocco. For this first phase of production the investment is estimated at about \$70 million. Subsequently, in a second phase phosphoric acid is to be produced in China with Morocco supplying the necessary phosphate rock.

In the United Arab Emirates the OCP and the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) are working jointly on a feasibility study for the construction of a fertilizer factory in the industrial center of Ruweis on the Arabian Gulf. The study, which is nearly finished, proposes producing diammonium phosphate there from Moroccan phosphoric acid. This project would cost between \$60 and \$70 million.

In the spring of 1984 Morocco ordered two phosphoric acid tankers (24,000 dwt each) from the French shipbuilding firm, Chantiers du Nord et de la Mediterranee. The purchase of these tankers will be financed with French loans. Both will be built at the shipyard in Dunkirk. The most important OCP projects for which economic and technical feasibility studies were prepared include further exploitation of the phosphate mining district of Khouribga by developing new mining operations and constructing a dry beneficiation plant. The construction of a new calcination plant for black phosphate is also planned for the Youssoufia mining district. The two above-mentioned phosphoric acid plants in Jorf Lasfar are also included.

HARIF ANALYZES RABIN PLAN FOR LEBANON

TA091309 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 9 Nov 84 p 16

[Commentary by Yosef Harif: "Is the Syrian 'Nyet' the Last Word?"]

[Excerpts] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin believes that security does not necessarily follow from formal agreements. It is possible to reach informal political understandings and obtain solid security achievements in the area, as opposed to a formal agreement, even a peace treaty, which may not achieve the desired practical results.

The talks which opened in Al-Naqurah yesterday between the Israeli and Lebanese delegations would not have taken place without Syria's consent.

Does this mean that Syria would also be prepared to allow the Lebanese to reach a military settlement with Israel, according to the plan Israel proposed?

Up until the visit by U.S. special envoy Richard Murphy to Damascus a few days ago, Israel believed that that was possible. After Murphy's return from Damascus, where he talked with the Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, optimism quickly faded. Murphy did not meet with Al-Asad, but it is possible that the Syrians deliberately did not let him meet with the highest authority there so as not to lock the door on him completely. One thing is clear beyond a shadow of a doubt: The settlement, if achieved, will not be achieved in the Al-Naqurah talks, but in Damascus. From this point of view, nobody can now predict when the IDF will withdraw from Lebanon if the government decides not to settle for less than Rabin's proposals.

The "Rabin plan" concisely states that Israel is prepared to withdraw to the international border provided two security strips are determined: one with the army of southern Lebanon deployed from the international border on the Al-Litani or Al-Zahrani Rivers, and one with UNIFIL forces deployed as far as the Al-Awwali River. According to the Rabin plan, the IDF reserves the right to enter southern Lebanon, by virtue of the right of self-defense stipulated in the UN Charter, if there is a clear danger of renewed terrorist activity. Israel also wants to reserve for itself the right to conduct reconnaissance flights in Lebanese airspace.

Rabin believes that such a plan stands a chance of being acceptable to the Syrians, since, unlike in the past, Israel has dropped its demand for a simultaneous Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon. Israel is prepared to accept the Syrian deployment as it is, provided that Damascus accepts an "understanding" similar to the informal one achieved on the Golan Heights, according to which Syria will not move its forces after the IDF's withdrawal, neither south nor west toward the Beirut-Damascus highway, and will also promise to prevent the infiltration of terrorists to the south.

Why does Rabin believe that the Syrians may finally accept his plan? The defense minister's belief is based on the assumption that the Syrian interest calls for this.

- a. The Syrians wanted the Multinational Forces out of Lebanon and obtained this.
- b. The Syrians insisted on the cancellation of the U.S.-mediated Israeli-Lebanese agreement signed on 17 May 1983 and achieved this.
- c. The Syrians demanded Israel's withdrawal to the international border without Israel scoring any political achievement, and they in fact can still achieve this. Furthermore, the Syrians themselves understand, or so they have publicly proclaimed, that Israel has security problems along its border with Lebanon. Rabin deduced from this that a plan drawn up to answer Israel's security problems alone, devoid of any political seal, would be acceptable to Damascus.

The defense minister, who received the government's approval for his plan, could tell the Cabinet members that the Americans, having learned of the Rabin plan in detail and having put out feelers to the Syrians about their willingness to reach only a secret understanding with Israel, had relayed the Syrian signals to him. It is on the basis of these "signals" that U.S. envoy Richard Murphy returned to the region.

CSO: 4400/33

NEW LEGISLATION CURBS RACIST REMARKS IN KNESSET

Tel Aviv NEWSVIEW in English No 45, 14-20 Nov 84 pp 3, 4

[Article by Ya'acov Bar-Natan]

[Text] "Be quiet, Arab!" shouted Knesset Member Rabbi Meir Kahane when Communist MK Tewfik Toubi indulged in some heckling during a recent debate on Soviet Jewry. But Kahane will not be able to do this again. A new rule empowers the speaker or his deputies to expel any Knesset member who makes a racist remark and further harassment from Kahane will find him removed from the chamber. If the offender is speaking from the rostrum, the speaker can interrupt his speech and order him to step down. If a motion or bill is racist in character, it can be disqualified and not submitted.

The Knesset house committee adopted the rule at the request of Speaker Shlomo Hillel. In an interview with *Newsview* he made no specific reference to Kahane, but confirmed that further expressions of racism in the Knesset had become, to put it mildly, "a possibility." Hillel explained the need to combat such remarks. "This is the Knesset of the Jewish people, who have suffered more than any other from racism," Hillel said. "What would I have done had I been a member of another parliament and someone had said something anti-Semitic?"

The new Knesset rule is only a small step, Hillel admitted. New legislation will be needed to tackle the wider problem of incitement to racism in Israel, and he hoped such a bill would be introduced in the very near future.

In the wake of Kahane's violent attempt to enter the Arab town of Umm al-Fahm, the Knesset house committee met with Attorney-General Professor Yitzhak Zamir and head of police investigations Commander Yehezkel Karthy to discuss a proposal to restrict the rabbi's parliamentary immunity. Zamir pointed out that Kahane petitioned the High Court of Justice after police prevented him from entering Taibe, another Arab town. When the court gives its ruling, Zamir

said, it will be easier to advise the house committee on whether it is possible to restrict an MK's freedom of movement.

Karthy's testimony made clear the delicate situation faced by police when dealing with the Kahane phenomenon. Hundreds of police were removed from other duties and brought to Umm al-Fahm, as Kahane could not simply be barred at the outset. Karthy told *Newsview* the police's task would be simpler if the Knesset would take a clearer stand. "If we have a clear law we know exactly where we stand and what we may and may not do. We can stop a dangerous course of events at a very early stage. It would be far easier and also cheaper. In the present situation we cannot interfere with an MK's immunity until things are actually happening. It is almost like brinkmanship."

There are two proposals before the Knesset house committee. Labor MK Edna Solodar proposes Kahane's parliamentary immunity be restricted. MK Yossi Sarid of the opposition Citizens' Rights Movement wants Kahane's immunity totally lifted. He claims Kahane should be prosecuted for incitement to

murder following his praise for the attack on an Arab bus in Jerusalem. Labor MK Shevah Weiss would go further than that. He favors a law against racism which would outlaw Kahane's Kach party. Speaker Shlomo Hillel shares his view.

However, such a law would not only apply to Kahane and his followers. Minister of Police Haim Bar-Lev has stated it could be used against some of the more nationalist Israeli Arabs, who sing anti-Semitic songs at weddings and other celebrations. □

CSO: 4400/41

NEW METHOD OF RECYCLING INDUSTRIAL SEWAGE

Tel Aviv NEWSVIEW in English No 43, 31 Oct-6 Nov 84 p 20

[Article by Bill Clark: "Recycling Industrial Sewage"]

[Text] **A** novel solution to one of the major problems of our time — detoxifying and recycling industrial sewage — has been found by botanists at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's faculty of agriculture.

Working at their Rehovot experimental station, the botanists discovered a process which relies on two plants — azolla, a water fern found mainly in the tropics, and blue-green algae, a primitive plant capable of extracting nitrogen from the air.

A team headed by Dr. Elisha Tel-Or has been studying azolla for seven years, the original intention being to ascertain whether the plant could be grown in marginal water (water unfit for human or agricultural use,) and then harvested as animal fodder. The botanists found that the floating fern quickly associated with blue-green algae, which supplied the fern with all its nitrogen requirements, eliminating the substantial cost of fertilization.

The study also revealed that azolla was capable of absorbing substantial amounts of minerals from the water. So in 1981, Tel-Or decided to see what would happen if the plant was introduced to industrial sewage contaminated with heavy metals such as copper, zinc and chromium. The scientists were astonished to discover that the azolla worked like a magnet, absorbing significant quantities of these and other metals, including silver, nickel, uranium, titanium and cadmium.

Such metals are usually highly toxic, and industrial sewage has therefore been considered one of the major pollutants of industrial countries and their coastal waters. The discovery of a method of detoxifying industrial sewage has three benefits: it offers a solution to the pollution problem; it provides clean water which can be used for irrigation; it leaves a bonus of recycled heavy metals.

The scientists found that their technique of growing azolla on industrial sewage caused the plant to grow and to absorb heavy metals. The poisonous metals eventually kill the plant, which is then dried out and the metals are recovered by means of a burning process. This is done in an Israeli-developed electric generator.

A related use developed by the botanists involves using dried azolla as a filter, which can then be used to remove heavy metals from industrial sewage.

The Yisum Research Development Company, a subsidiary of the Hebrew University established for the commercial exploitation of university discoveries, has obtained a patent for two methods of using azolla. One involves growing the fern on industrial sewage ponds in order to recycle the water for agricultural use. The second method involves growing it on urban sewage, harvesting and drying the mature fern and then using it as a filter with special applications in chemical plants, photograph laboratories and paint and metal production plants. □

OPTIMISM REPORTED OVER PRICE FREEZE

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Nov 84 p 2

[Article by Aaron Sittner]

[Text] Hopes are running high at the Ministry of Industry and Trade that Saturday night's Emergency Regulations freezing prices will work.

"We're not taking any chances," David Brodet told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday. Brodet, a ministry economic adviser who is in charge of Operation Price Freeze said:

"Nobody likes to do business in the shadow of administrative restrictions. But we can almost swear that after the first few days the public will become convinced any measure that succeeds in arresting runaway inflation is well worth the trouble."

Nevertheless, a section in the regulations is quick to warn that "violators are liable to a fine of IS2 million and three years' imprisonment."

"Justice will act swiftly in these cases," Brodet warned. "We have arranged with the Courts Administration for seven so-called rapid-ruling tribunals, to be housed in the magistrates courts of Jerusalem, Haifa, Tel Aviv, Beersheba, Nazareth, Ashdod and Rehovot. If our inspectors catch a merchant of goods or services price-gouging or failing to quote a price in shekels, that merchant can expect to be hauled before the court in a matter of days and face judgement within two weeks."

However, lodging a complaint is not a simple matter, since the aggrieved citizen must appear personally at one of the ministry's four regional offices throughout the country. "I expect that the over-

whelming majority of complaints brought to court will be the result of our inspectors' initiative rather than the public's awareness and anger" Brodet said.

"But we welcome complaints from consumers, and have asked municipalities and local authorities to allocate a room and an official to act as our representatives in places where we do not maintain a regional office. Unfortunately, we have yet to receive a reply from these local authorities."

"To bring a suspected price-gouger into court, the ministry's lawyer will have to show a dated sales slip or receipt, and also bring along proof of what the price for the article or service in question was before November 2, the cutoff date. Fortunately, Brodet's agents already have a substantial library of price lists cataloguing thousands of pre-November 2 prices of goods and services from shoes to shoeshines and from hair tonic to haircuts."

And what happens after a merchant is convicted? Brodet was asked. "We are going to publish his name for all to see," he replied. "And, as you know, all kinds of people - not only curious consumers - read the newspapers for such reports. There are also Income Tax and VAT inspectors who are always eager to find new 'clients' on which to work."

Brodet admits that "in the first few days" his inspectors will treat the business community with kid gloves. But as time goes on and the price freeze settles in, the kid gloves will be pulled off and the hands will begin writing summonses as fast as they can.

Will some shopkeepers wait till January 31 and rush out to buy inventory at the frozen prices, only to resell the goods beginning the next day (when the freeze ends) at many times the approved price during the freeze?

"We have thought about that, and I can assure you that it will not occur," Brodet said. "The hands that wrote these regulations can write other ones to phase out the price freeze in an orderly fashion. Besides, inflation may cool down by then, and the market will dictate its own reasonable price."

Brodet concluded: "Remember, our list of maximum prices cannot cover all goods and services, though all have had their prices frozen. That means the public must begin to shop around and compare prices when they want to buy an article not on our list.

"Who knows? Maybe the experience with this price freeze will have an educational affect on the Israeli consumer. Then, even after we've licked inflation, we will have adopted the proper consumers posture in the marketplace. Then no longer will we be duped by manufacturers and merchants who want to get away with murder."

CSO: 4400/41

TRADE, TOURISM WITH SOUTH LEBANON DECREASES

TA091122 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 9 Nov 84 p 3

[Report by correspondent in the north Shim'on Weiss]

[Text] Over the last year Israel has invested 800 million shekels worth of aid for residents of southern Lebanon. Despite the anticipated 10-percent cut in aid next year, the amount remains extensive.

The extent of trade with southern Lebanon, however, has decreased over the last year. In the last few months it has reached an unprecedented low of less than \$1.5 million, as compared to \$6.3 million in the last month of 1982.

According to the head of the Civilian Administration in Lebanon, Colonel Sha'ul Nuri'el, the decrease in trade with residents of southern Lebanon stems from the merchants' fears of harm as a result of their ties with Israel, and also from the severe restrictions imposed by the Beirut administration on trading links with Israel.

It appears that as a result of pressure by the central administration in Beirut and the terrorist organizations, attacks on and threats to merchants and Lebanese residents who maintain ties with Israel have increased. Last week a well-known Tyre flower merchant and his son were murdered and another son was severely wounded, when unidentified persons shot them in the middle of the city.

The closing of the Al-Awwali bridges and administrative difficulties also deter Lebanese merchants from maintaining ties with Israel. The Israeli Civilian Administration has recently initiated a series of steps meant to facilitate the passage of Lebanese merchants over the Al-Awwali and the issuance of passage permits by the IDF.

A significant decrease in the number of tourists from Lebanon has also been registered recently: from 10,000 Lebanese tourists every month to fewer than 5,000 now. Since last January 44,000 Lebanese tourists have visited Israel. This is a decrease of about 40 percent in the number of those coming from Lebanon to vacation here. Colonel Nuri'el noted, however, that Israeli investments in southern Lebanon will yield positive results in the long term, and the very fact of the creation of links with local residents and the encouragement given to the local and central Lebanese administrations help the residents of southern Lebanon to build an infrastructure and receive certain basic services.

NATURE, PROBLEMS OF PACKAGE DEAL DEPICTED

Tel Aviv NEWSVIEW in English No 44, 7-13 Nov 84 pp 2-3

[Article by Aaron Leibel]

[Text]

Almost two months after the formation of the national unity government and following nine days of marathon discussions, the Histadrut labor federation, industry representatives and government officials finally signed a wage-price-tax freeze agreement this week. Another week of dismal economic news proved that the three-month freeze came not a moment too soon. However, the agreement may not even last that long if the first two days of its implementation are any indication.

The package deal was a compromise. Manufacturers agreed to a price freeze for longer than the six-week period originally proposed by the government. Workers, for their part, will forgo one-third of the cost-of-living increment for the next two months and the government will not raise taxes or impose new ones for the duration of the agreement.

Workers, whose wages will be eroded a further 20 percent, will be compensated with five-percent credit on their income-tax payments for three months beginning in February. Manufacturers, who must pay two-thirds of the cost-of-living supplement without raising prices, will receive tax rebates and lower interest rates on loans. The government will be free to devalue the shekel for the duration of the agreement, but has unofficially pledged to keep devaluations at a minimum.

Problems began to surface less than 48 hours after the agreement was initiated. Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i announced that government-subsidized basic commodities, gasoline and water and electricity rates were not included in the freeze. This brought an angry reaction from Histadrut secretary-general Yisrael Kessar who insisted those prices

were also frozen (see box). Prime Minister Shimon Peres supported Kessar at this week's Sunday Cabinet meeting, although he indicated that if those prices needed to be raised, the matter would be brought before the agreement's monitoring committee.

Grumbling was also heard from some manufacturers and businessmen. Industrialists who import large quantities of raw materials for production told reporters the package deal would compel them to fire workers. Higher costs for imports together with a price freeze spell disaster, they explained. Importers who pay for products in dollars and must now sell at fixed shekel prices are threatening to close their businesses for three months.

The agreement's biggest problem may be the lack of governmental supervision of prices. Officials conceded they lacked the manpower to monitor the country's thousands of retail outlets and self-employed professionals whose prices of goods and services are theoretically frozen. To enforce the freeze they are relying on voluntary compliance by industrialists, retailers and alert consumers. Maximum prices for hundreds of items will be published shortly in a list for the public to take on shopping trips. Anyone caught raising prices during the three-month agreement will be subject to prosecution with a maximum penalty of three years in prison and a fine of 2.5 million shekels.

The package deal is expected to end the anarchy plaguing the market for the past two months. Some manufacturers sharply raised prices in anticipation of a price freeze — in some cases by as much as 200 or 300 percent. Taking advantage of consumer bewilderment, many retailers marked up prices above those recommended by producers. During a spot-check of stores conducted this week, the Histadrut's Consumer Protection Authority discovered price differences of between 33 and 160 percent for identical items at different outlets.

On the other hand, the economy is showing all the signs of recession. A drastic drop in sales of cars, refrigerators, television sets and other durable goods was evident even before last month's prohibition on imported goods. Clothing and shoe shops report a decline in sales of between 20 and 30 percent. Apartment sales are down and Israelis are also buying less food. But as industrialists and retailers are faced with high interest rates on loans and a constantly devalued shekel, this slowdown in the market has not been accompanied by lower prices. The economy is thus in the throes of stagflation.

Worse, the country's foreign-currency reserves fell last month by another \$94 million to stand at only \$1.99 billion. Since June, reserves have dropped by one billion dollars (the government had previously considered the sum of three billion dollars to be the "red line" below which reserves should not fall). At the present rate, not even the \$1.2 billion in American aid delivered this week, too late to be counted in the October foreign-reserves figure, will help to stave off empty coffers for very long.

Analysts view the package deal as providing a breathing space in which the harassed Cabinet can tackle the root problem of Israel's economic crisis — a bloated national budget. The twin problems of dwindling foreign-currency reserves and stagflation can only be solved by significant cutbacks. Unfortunately, slashing public budgets in Is-

rael is an almost impossible task, going by past experience.

Deputy Premier David Levy reinforced that impression this week by blocking Moda'i's efforts to extend the government's present freeze on new state obligations to private suppliers and contractors.

The three-month freeze was due to expire and Levy claimed its continuation would cause the building industry to collapse. In the end, Peres engineered a compromise whereby the freeze will continue with two exceptions; defense contracts were frozen for only one month and one-third of the public housing construction budget was put on ice.

Cutting ministers' individual budgets will encounter much stiffer opposition. If the budget is not pared down, the public deficit can only be covered by printing money. Any large infusions of worthless shekels will spell failure for the package deal. □

BRIEFS

EARTHQUAKES IN JORDAN VALLEY--There were three earthquakes this morning in the Jordan Valley area, near the Tirza spring, and we have just been told by the seismological institute that the tremors registered 4 and 4.5 points on the Richter scale. [Text] [Tel Aviv KDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 5 Nov 84]

CONDITION OF NEW SETTLEMENTS--Since the national unity government has come to power, the condition of the new settlements in the territories has changed. The condition of some of the settlements which were established on the eve of the elections in the big campaign launched by the former Science and Technology Minister Prof Yuval Ne'eman is especially difficult. Our correspondent on settlement affairs Rami Gobernik will later give us a report on one of the settlements, called Ne'ot Adummim, which is located in the Adummim plain, some 10 km east of Jerusalem. The head of the settlement department of the World Zionist Organization, Matityahu Drobles, told our correspondent that the Ministerial Committee on Settlement Affairs has not approved the establishment of Ne'ot Adummim. The settlers can go home, Mr Drobles said. He will call them when a decision is made. Cochairman of the Jewish Agency Settlement Department, Nisim Zvili, said that if the settlement is approved by the Ministerial Committee on Settlement Affairs, he will help the settlers to survive the winter. [Excerpt] [Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 12 Nov 84]

BROADCASTING AUTHORITY BUDGET ABOLISHED--Mikha Yinon, the chairman of the Broadcasting Authority's board of directors, said yesterday at the Knesset Culture and Education Committee that beginning on 1 April 1985, the government will stop funneling allocations to the Broadcasting Authority. The authority will then have to survive on income from radio commercials and radio and television fees. The stoppage of government funding will force the Broadcasting Authority to step up and improve its methods of collecting radio and television fees. [Text] [Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 13 Nov 84 p 3]

NAHAL SETTLEMENTS SHELVED--As a result of budget cuts, three pre-settlements which were in the final planning stages will not be established. All plans to establish pre-settlements and strongholds manned by NAHAL personnel have also been shelved. This was announced by the head of the

Youth and NAHAL Department in the Defense Ministry, Levi Mann. The three pre-settlements were to have been established in the Shizzafon, Pithat Shalom, and Jordan Rift Valley areas. The establishment of additional pre-settlements in the West Bank has also been frozen. The NAHAL is currently manning strongholds in the West Bank. Despite the cuts, however, four new pre-settlements were established this week. The "Harish" pre-settlement in the Barqa'i region is also scheduled to be turned into a civilian settlement soon. Summing up his term in office, Levi Mann told correspondents that the NAHAL has made progress in terms of establishing new settlements but not at the pace he wanted. Levi Mann will be replaced as head of the Youth and NAHAL Department by Arye Simhoni. [Text] [Tel Aviv BAMAHAHE in Hebrew 21 Nov 84 p 7]

TRADE DEFICIT DROPS--Israel's trade deficit dropped by 21 percent during the first 10 months of 1984, as compared to the same period in 1983, but this tendency is noted to have slowed down last month. Our correspondent reports that over the first 10 months of 1984 exports increased by 11 percent while imports decreased by 3 percent. A decline was especially noted in the importation of consumer goods. During these 10 months Israel has slightly increased the importation of fuel. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 11 Nov 84]

NEWSVIEW MAY CEASE PUBLICATION--Staff members of NEWSVIEW, an English-language weekly, have been given notice of their imminent dismissal, although editor Asher Weill is optimistic that a solution to the magazine's financial problems will be found. The four-year-old magazine is likely to cease publication within three weeks, it was learned yesterday. Weill told THE JERUSALEM POST, however, that "negotiations with a major Israeli institution which is considering taking over the magazine are now at an advanced stage. We should have an answer within the next 10 days," he said. NEWSVIEW is owned by Syrian-born Jewish financier Leon Tamman, whose interests in Israel include a hotel, and a television and film studio. A source close to the magazine said that NEWSVIEW costs Tamman several thousand dollars a month to maintain. [Text] [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Nov 84 p 3]

TRADE DEFICIT DOWN--Israel's trade deficit totalled \$2.4 billion during the first 10 months this year, 21 percent less than the deficit for the same period last year, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday. But the figures for October were less favourable than the cumulative figures for the other months. According to the bureau, the trade deficit last month was \$260 million, 2 percent more than in September. The deficit for 1984 is still considerably lower than in 1983. According to the figures, the monthly average of imports of goods over exports for July to October was 10 percent less than the level for the first half of 1984. The figures also showed that during the first 10 months, imports totalled some \$6.8 billion, 3 percent less than the total for the similar period in 1983. Nevertheless, after excluding seasonal factors, the monthly average of imports--net of ships, aircraft and fuel--was 5.5 percent above the average for the first half of the year and 1.5 percent above the average for the second half of 1983. [Avi Temkin] [Text] [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Nov 84 p 2]

JANIN JOINS ISRAELI ELECTRICITY GRID--The town of Janin today joins the Israeli electricity grid. The connection is being made at the request of the appointed mayor, 'Abdallah Lakhluh. To date, Janin has received its electricity from six old, diesel-operated generators, and there were many disruptions in the supply. In order to connect the city to the Israeli grid, a 25 km high-tension line had to be erected. The entire operation cost \$1.2 million. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 3 Dec 84]

IDF WANTS HILLS OVERLOOKING RAMALLAH--Commander of the Central Command Aluf [Major General] Amnon Shahaq told the High Court of Justice on Friday that the Israel Defence Forces wants to expropriate two hills near Ramallah because they overlook an IDF camp and make it vulnerable. Replying to a petition by 14 Ramallah residents, Shahaq testified in a written declaration that there is no intention of limiting the development of Ramallah. The order to expropriate the land was issued in 1983, but was not acted on. He said that there has been an order forbidding construction on the hills dating from 1978, and said that the land is not suitable for agriculture. [Text] [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Dec 84 p 3]

CSO: 4400/42

LEFTIST JOURNAL CONDEMNS ELECTION IRREGULARITIES

Kuwait AL-TALI'AH in Arabic No 859, 26 Sep 84 p 9

/Article: "On the Local Scene: On Election Bribes--What Is To Be Done?"/

/Text/ As the coming parliamentary elections approach, the subject of "election bribes" or what is known as the buying of votes has been one of the most important issues to which a number of writers have addressed themselves in some local papers, in the light of the news citizens have been propagating concerning a given candidate's allocation of "hundreds of thousands" for his election campaign, and also in the light of the direct or indirect distribution by a number of representatives in previous elections of cash allotments or gifts in kind to numbers of voters who saw that there was an opportunity in this occasion which they could benefit from.

The candidates included people who even covered the bribes with an Islamic garb and proceeded to spend them in the form of a tithe, albeit a tithe whose context was restricted to the voters in their electoral districts!

We do not want to expatiate in enumerating these practices. We have talked about them intensively in AL-TALI'AH since these vile, lowly practices first appeared, and have shown their gravity and the possibility that they might spread if they continued undeterred or unmonitored by the entities concerned.

However, unfortunately, since this phenomenon first appeared, there has been nothing to indicate that a government body has established an agency which would take charge of investigating and imposing penalties on candidates who offer bribes. It is as if the citizens and the press, in past years, had been talking about election bribes in a country other than Kuwait, since the matter did not concern the government, especially in the area of application of the law.

The new election law has been phrased in a manner which describes the penalties and punishment related to "election bribes" and the diversion of election votes by candidates through financial inducements. However, these articles in the law remain unopposed, as if there is no exercise of bribery and it does not occur in the country, as people have been stating over the years in which elections have been taking place, whether they be parliamentary elections or at least those for the "material badge," that is, municipality elections.

We do not assume ill intent on the part of the executive authorities in their failure to apply the electoral law. Rather, we accuse them of being deficient in applying the law, which is the least of faith. In our opinion, the executive authorities admit this deficiency. Application means creating an agency out of a government department or a tripartite department of the government, the judiciary power and the legislative power, to discuss and mull over all charges or information about candidates' giving bribes, so that anyone who proceeds to do so may receive his punishment in accordance with the law.

So far there is no agency with jurisdiction on this. Therefore, the article of the law related to bribery remains mere ink on paper, without application.

Therefore, we turn toward the legislative authorities to discuss this important matter in the coming session and establish the necessary agency to carry out the articles of the present law on elections. The candidates who engage in this sort of practice could be elected and take their place in this building alongside other deputies who reject this sort of practice. In this sort of case, the situation should be considered a distortion and a shortcoming, if this sort of person is present in the citadel of democracy which we cherish. If we agree that the executive authorities are falling short in assuming their tasks of applying the law, with all its articles, the situation must not be equal to the legislative authorities, and they must consider this an important issue by creating a specialized agency to review the statements on election bribes so that the coming elections will be cleaner and devoid of the blemishes which are attached to them.

11887

CSO: 4404/61

ELECTION TACTICS OF MUSLIM BROTHERS CRITICIZED

Kuwait AL-TALI'AH in Arabic No 860, 3 Oct 84 pp 12, 13

/Article by 'Asam al-Zufayri: "The Brothers Are Brimming over with Sympathy!"/

/Text/ The 1981 parliamentary elections gave the party of the Muslim Brothers in Kuwait political weight on the Kuwaiti stage. That was not because the "Brothers" and their doctrinally right-wing allies gained a parliamentary majority--in reality they only obtained a very limited number, which did not exceed the fingers on one's hand. Rather, their political weight as political organizations arose as a result of their winning this number of seats for the first time, which made the "Brothers" sense a political resurgence. Helping them in this was the absence of Democratic Grouping candidates who had high status, programs and bold positions in parliamentary activity in the current parliament; the democrats' failure to win comforted the Brothers and comforted the government. The democrats' failure to win was a goal in itself, and their absence in the parliament comforted the Brothers in dealing with competitors who were stronger and had the power to set out progressive programs and persuade their colleagues to accept, reject, or modify government drafts and programs in a manner which would guarantee the national interest.

As regards the government, it does not transcend any government in the world or nature. It is the concern of the government to have a parliamentary majority which will help it to approve its programs and plans, and it is very preferable that that be without headaches and unaccompanied by a national movement, thus sparing the government the element of intellectual challenge and the presentation of alternative programs.

Successes for Purposes of Show

The Brothers felt that their limited victory would enable them to present themselves and their programs to people through parliament, and that that would enable them to increase their seats in the coming elections. However, the years went by quickly, and the Brothers did not pay attention to what could be described as national programs and policies; these people were not able to enrich parliamentary life and give it a character which was distinguished from qualities shared by other members who did not belong to party organizations.

In fact, among the latter there are people who are superior to the members of the religious parties in terms of discussions and recommendations.

It has become clear in the minds of many people, especially those who follow parliamentary activity, that some members of parliament who belong to the religious parties have devoted much personal intellectual effort to discussions for purposes of show and the acquisitions of election gains, for instance obtaining very great parliamentary support to change Article Two of the constitution. However, these certain people failed totally in dealing with national issues which are of concern to the nation and the citizen, such as the al-Manakh market crisis, administrative corruption, the spread of bribery, the quest for answers from certain ministers and the like.

It is true that the members of religious parties do not bear the responsibility alone, but they do bear the responsibility for advancing specific stands, and it appears that their failure in this can be attributed to a number of things, including, for example:

1. An absence of national programs among the religious parties.
2. Reliance by representatives of these parties on political shows under the cover of the application of Islamic law.

This show has led to disputes among these people over their understanding of Islamic law. These are disputes which we believe political circumstances have limited. However, the likelihood remains that existing differences in Islamic jurisprudence and politics will escalate if these parties have adequate numbers of deputies, and we believe that each of these parties is betting on that in the future.

3. The disputes between the "Brothers" and the right-wing ideologues have become apparent; the Brothers believe that the right-wing ideologues have made a truce and to a large extent rely on exhortation and guidance to win people over to their premises; that is, these people believe in the Islamization of society without direct confrontation with governments, which the Brothers believe are obstructing their progress toward the application of Islamic law as they view it. The right-wing ideologues accuse the Brothers of haste and the overriding desire to reach political power in order to impose their presence and principles.

However, the disputes between these two parties are still ideologically and politically limited when compared with disputes between the two parties and others. Although the leaders of these parties call for attention to the application of Islamic law, everyone has his own comprehension and interpretation of this application. That became clearly obvious during the discussion of the personal status law, although objective and subjective circumstances did not permit the emergence of a dispute in frank, open form in the parliament.

The leaders of these parties are not sparing any effort to direct charges that infringe on the beliefs of the other parties, and this has created a factional climate among the people whose severity will increase as the date of the elections draws near.

There is no doubt that the rise in the smell of factionalism is a serious sign and practical proof that the religious parties are unable to solve their disputes over religious jurisprudence and politics.

4. The religious parties inside and outside parliament have proved their opposition to expanded participation by the people. The representatives of these parties opposed giving women their political rights and they used every means, through the press and the mosques, to portray women as unfit for legislation and political action. Here they are compatible with one another; they believe that women are "deficient in intelligence and religion" and that their natural place is the home and child rearing. Certainly, the home, child rearing and the provision of an atmosphere for a happy family are important things, but this does not prevent women from helping elect their representatives to parliament and from participating as members, if their circumstances so permit.

No one is more aware of their circumstances than they are, and this is something that the religious parties, which consider that the man's right to tutelage over women is absolute, do not accept.

These in general are some of the things which we believe have helped and are helping to weaken the position of the religious parties politically. It appears that these parties now realize that their success in occupying some parliamentary seats might be faced with surprises which will not be happy ones; nonetheless it is not to be expected that these parties will withdraw--rather, the opposite is the case. They have started to prepare lists of their candidates, to encompass most electoral districts. In order for these to be guaranteed that they will get the greatest number of seats they can, they have resorted to a style which might be new, which is to seek to gain the sympathy of the people by portraying some of these parties' candidates in a good manner.

However--and here is where the weakness lies--the members and supporters of the religious party currents are spreading about the rumor that the proponents of Islam are being subject to a campaign of vilification from leftists and the press and that the purpose of this campaign, as they consider it, is to prevent the voice of Islam from being raised, because the left is not just content to defame the adherents of Islam, to prevent them from getting seats in the National Assembly, but is also trying to eradicate the role of the Islamic religion and put the pure religion on the shelf, and other bankrupt heresies.

Therefore, proceeding from the premise of concern that God's law be established and from the premise that our religion be spared attacks from the left, it is necessary to support the candidates of the religious parties in order to get them to seats in parliament.

In areas where tribalism plays the main role in the success and failure of their candidates, these parties bless the exploitation of their candidates for their tribal and family affiliation, as long as that might lead to an election victory.

The people on the left are not the only ones the religious parties use in their election publicity. There are other Islamic groups which the members of these parties are anxious to portray as dangerous groups, stating that to keep them from winning it is necessary to restrict the vote to the representatives of their parties' candidates. This factional exploitation is aimed at achieving three objectives:

The first is to obtain electoral gains.

The second is to strengthen and inflame the spirit of factionalism.

The third is to make it appear that the true Islam is the Islam these parties follow and that anything beside that is a mistaken, distorted form of Islam.

Even the government has entered as a party into the accusation. Some members of these parties give the interpretation that the press criticism and so forth has been directed at the religious parties and their orientations encouraging factionalism has taken place with the agreement of the government or at least through negligence on its part. The government, in these people's view, has started to be afraid of the increase in religious enthusiasm and wants at the present time to create a sort of political balance.

These allusions and charges are aimed at covering the failure of the representatives of the religious parties to fill the vacuum left by the absence of the elements of the democratic forces, or what it is now customary to label the national movement. They also are aimed at seeking the sympathy of people to encourage them to vote for people who will receive a clean slate from the religious parties.

In the event these parties totally or partially fail, the justification will have preceded the results.

In any event, the quest for sympathy gives unquestionable proof of the fear and lack of confidence which it appears these parties are suffering from.

11887

CSO: 4404/61

OPENING OF NEW STOCK EXCHANGE BUILDING DESCRIBED

London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Oct 84 p 5

/Article by Amin Muhammad Amin: "The Kuwait Stock Exchange in Its New Building: A Financial Market Organized on a New Basis To Eliminate Speculation"/

/Text/ In the midst of a state of silence, calm and apathy among the people conducting transactions, the new Kuwait stock exchange began its activities and moved over to its luxurious new building, without celebration or tumult, although the costs of constructing it came to more than 18 million Kuwaiti dinars (\$54 million), which is greater than the costs of building the famous London stock exchange.

On the other side of the exchange, a state of silence and apathy continues to dominate the al-Manakh market, site of the notorious Kuwait economic crisis which started in 1982, whose effects still last up to now, in spite of the decree that the market should close its doors and liquidate and sell its 42 shops.

After it had witnessed the greatest financial transactions in the world, where the course of transactions would go on to midnight, and the volume of their ramified dealings came to more than 26 billion Kuwaiti dinars, the market is witnessing a state of apathy and listlessness and its shops have been subjected to sale and rental at any price. Whereas the sales price of a shop, when the market was prosperous, came to more than 16 million Kuwaiti dinars, it cannot now find any buyers or renters, now that the dazzle of the famous market has disappeared.

Observers say that although the complete construction of the Kuwait money market, the stock exchange, has not yet been completed, the haste in moving over to it and starting dealings in it, and the concentrated publicity that has accompanied that, clearly express the desire to eliminate all the causes which led to the collapse that took place in the unofficial al-Manakh market 2 years ago. The main reason for that was the failure to tighten surveillance over transactions, which assumed the form of insane speculation and illusory dealings that took place far from the normal sites for carrying out real transactions.

The granite building is dark brown and occupies two corners of two main streets in the commercial heart of the capital. It stands proudly and confidently before the al-Manakh market building which had been chosen for stock transaction and speculation activities during the market surge in which, and because of which, the worst of economic crises, which is still hovering, with its dark shadows, over the Kuwaiti economy, occurred. Its shops, those of the al-Manakh market, are now ruins and the red government seals with which their doors have become sealed, and the judiciary rulings hanging on them, preventing them from being opened, declare that a dismal era has been replaced, an era in which sticks of incense were lit before them with fantastic sums, which came to hundreds of thousands of dinars, and their value went into the millions of dinars.

There Is No Relationship between the Market and the Crisis

However, the people in charge of the Kuwait securities market insist that there is no connection between that al-Manakh crisis and the establishment of these markets, since in their opinion they have existed for a long pursuit of organized modern methods of transactions which observe provisions for the oversight and protection of the investor. They also consider that the regulation of transactions in the new market by this new method will not help solve the existing al-Manakh crisis, breaking up the interconnection between people conducting transactions in the old market and paying off the massive debts which resulted from the earlier activities.

However, they say at the same time that this market, with the statutes, information and services it will offer to investors and financiers, will prevent the occurrence of a similar crisis in the future, and that was regulating securities dealings on sound bases, so that it would be a market for investors, and not for speculators looking for rapid profit. Therefore, when the market decided to disclose the financial status of companies and to publish information on them, its intention in doing so was that it would be an incentive for their management to improve their conditions and diversify their activities, and ultimately that would help the economic development of the country, which is the first objective in the establishment of this market.

In addition, the market, with the analyses and data it offers, creates awareness among the investing public and encourages it to read this data, reflect thoroughly on it, relate it to prices, appraise its position, and refrain from acting impulsively and adventurously in dealing or speculating.

As Khalid al-Kharrafi, the director of the market, and its deputy director, 'Abdallah al-Sadirami, stress, that will all indeed result in the stabilization and guidance of transactions in securities in a manner which will guarantee the soundness, accuracy and ease of transactions so that the occurrence of any disturbances in them will be avoided.

A Million Dinars' Bond

The Kuwait securities market, whose regulations were issued by a decree of the emir in August 1983, enjoys a legal personality and is run by a special

committee under the chairmanship of the minister of commerce and industry. The government and experts are represented in it. Membership in the market includes Kuwaiti corporations which offer their shares for public subscription, closed companies whose /illegible/ in the market has been stipulated, and intermediaries as well.

The members pay annual dues of 10,000 dinars, while intermediaries, in addition, furnish a final bank guarantee of about 1 million dinars.

Eight Gulf Companies

Transactions in the market at present are restricted to the shares of 42 Kuwaiti corporations and closed companies in addition to eight non-Kuwaiti corporations, known as "Gulf companies," whose registration and the transactions of whose stocks in the market was agreed to by the market committee. These eight companies are the International Bank of Bahrain, the Bank of Bahrain and the Middle East, Coast Development and Investment, Arab General Investment (Shu'a'), Petroleum Products, Iron and Steel, the United Bank of Bahrain and the First Gulf Bank. The procedures for registration in the market are in their final stages in the case of three other companies, after which it will be possible actually to deal in their stock. The corporations are registered in the market in accordance with an inspection of their financial status, their positions, their profits and their distributions, alongside other factors.

The Arabs--Conducting Transactions in the Future

It is currently not allowed for non-Kuwaitis to deal in the stocks of Kuwaiti companies or conduct intermediary activities. Rather, it is only allowed for Arabs to deal in the shares of some Gulf companies whose statutes and the laws of whose companies allow people who are not of their own nationality to deal in their stocks. Kuwait market officials aspire to have Arab investors permitted to deal in Gulf stocks as a first stage in the future, then after that deal in Kuwaiti stocks themselves.

Intermediaries in the Training Stage

The current transactions hall can be reached through a long passageway whose two sides are occupied by the offices of intermediaries who are called brokers or middlemen. A government edict prohibits them from being individuals; rather, it makes it mandatory that they be Kuwaiti corporations, in order to guarantee that there is no speculation or harm to people conducting transactions. There is no scope for oversight over the documents and ledgers intermediaries use or for keeping them orderly. In reality, so far four intermediary companies have been registered in the market, and two financial firms have been allowed to make sales and purchases for their own account.

Arbitration and Discipline Committees

Since the specter of the al-Manakh crises still looms in the minds of people in charge of securities transactions, investors and financiers in general,

intensified laws have been set out, through numerous measures, to guarantee the protection of people conducting transactions and end any problems which might occur among them. One of the most important of these measures is the formation of an arbitration committee for the immediate settlement of disputes related to transactions, under the chairmanship of a member of the judiciary, with the membership of transactions experts.

Another committee, on discipline, rules on violations which occur in the market on the part of intermediaries or companies dealing in their securities. This committee can impose a number of disciplinary penalties up to removal from the market or cancellation of the transaction or intermediary activity.

Work in the transaction hall in the market is now taking place in two periods, in the morning from 1000 to 1200 hours and in the evening from 1700 to 1900 hours. In the opinion of Khalid al-Kharrafi, the director of the market, transactions so far have been minor, but he hopes that they will firm foundations and the confidence of persons conducting transactions has been won, since that is founded on their factor in the statutes on work in the stock exchange and their soundness, and the point that they are not founded on fraud or deception and that prices reflect the reality of the financial situation of the companies and the profits they realize.

Reasonable Prices and Volumes

With respect to the prices bearing on stocks, the market system actually guarantees that neither they nor the volumes transacted will be infringed or abruptly overturned in a manner which might cause a shock that might harm the market, the people conducting transactions or the companies, and might repeat what has happened. The market system allows the administration to make accurate determination, on the basis of the followup of prices and quantities of stocks and, after a review of its daily analyses, the market system will be permitted to determine the unit of price change and also the unit of share transactions, in addition to the possibility of intervention by the director of the market to stop, abrogate or modify any transaction activities which he considers have violated the statutes or instructions. There also is a group of firm organizational measures which specialized experts have set out to guarantee that transactions are concluded and recorded and the ownership of the papers dealt in is transferred without speculation, fraud or evasion.

From Speculation to Investment

Dr Sa'faq al-Rukaybi, the director of the economic and statistical research department in the market and the first employee to work in it, considers that the market at present is in a stage of transition from a disorganized to an organized market following modern methods and internationally recognized systems, which will cause it gradually to be transformed from a speculation market to an actual investment market serving the domestic economy.

In order to achieve the following market goal, which is to create investor awareness among citizens by providing all the information it has, so that they will be fully informed about its affairs when they make their decisions, and in order for these decisions to be on sound scientific bases, the management of the market has issued a number of introductory pamphlets on the companies registered with it, including summarized preliminary information on them. It is also now publishing a daily bulletin on stock transactions which have taken place and their prices, in addition to a weekly publication which is in effect a financial analytical report on the companies registered in the exchange whose securities have been traded in the week that has ended, along with a comparison with corresponding sectors. Also on its way is the investors' guide, in which the management of the markets has included all the basic information on 46 Kuwaiti corporations from the time they were first founded to the end of last year.

Have the Hopes Been Realized?

Now we can wonder whether the Kuwait securities market whose building, which is known as the Kuwait Stock Exchange, was inaugurated at the beginning of this month, has realized the hopes of officials who worked to establish it, whether it will actually prevent crises that might resemble the al-Manakh crisis, and whether it will actually realize greater stability in prices, clearer openness in applications and greater justice in transactions.

Its deputy director, 'Abdallah al-Sadirawi, also has such hopes.

Then, will it really lead to the creation of investor awareness among Kuwaiti citizens in a manner which will guarantee that it will play a proper role in the economic development of their country and truthful advancement of development progress, not dreams of rapid profit and fantasies of false wealth which, it has become clear, are founded on book figures which have no foundation or backing in the treasuries of the banks, and have caused many people to succumb to bankruptcy or pushed them to the brink of madness?

The coming days and months will answer all these and other questions when work in the Kuwait stock exchange, in its new building, takes place in a regular manner.

11887

CSO: 4404/61

PSP OFFICIAL DISCUSSES SECURITY PLAN

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 5 Aug 84 p 8

[Interview with Marwan Hamadah, vice president of the Progressive Socialist Party, by Manar Birs: "Damascus Has Put All of Its Effort Into Achieving a Solution Which Would Allow Lebanon to Maintain Its National Unity"; date and place of interview not specified]

[Text] President al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Karami's government are insisting on pursuing only the Arab option.

Good progress has been made with the Mount Lebanon security plan arrangements, and what is needed is a comprehensive solution to provide relief for the Lebanese before the liberation of South Lebanon and the western Biqa' area from Israeli occupation.

An interview with Marwan Hamadah, a former minister, is not an interview which is conducted concerning, or within the framework of, a particular domain, and it is not an interview conducted in order to gain information about a single given issue or matter which has been brought or some new problem.

An interview with Mr Hamadah is one which must deal with all the political matters involved in the Lebanese area--political matters which he has been involved in by virtue of the responsibilities which he has assumed throughout his political and journalistic career, particularly during the period of the Lebanese civil war subsequent to the Israeli invasion of Lebanese territory.

In addition to being a brilliant journalist and a former minister, Mr Hamadah is the vice president of the PSP [Progressive Socialist Party] and is one of the two men--the other being Khalid Junblatt, the former minister--who has taken on the tough negotiating tasks and conveyed the point of view and position of the PSP to all parties, under all circumstances, and at all times. In addition to this, he was one of the basic members of the delegation which accompanied Walid Junblatt to the national dialogue conferences in Geneva and Lausanne.

Mr Hamadah is also one of the policy makers in the PSP. For this reason, it was only natural that our interview with him principally focus on subjects such as solving the Lebanese crisis, the security plan for Beirut and Mount Lebanon, the return of the relocated persons [to their native areas], Lebanon's political situation, liberation of the occupied areas, expansion of the Lebanese government, and other subjects relevant to Lebanon. The interview went as follows:

The Road Toward the Solution

[Question] The first indications of a solution to the Lebanese crisis have begun to appear on the horizon, and some people are attempting to have these efforts toward achieving a solution be placed solely within the framework of the truce. How do you assess what is happening?

[Answer] I believe that Lebanon has passed beyond the phase of the truce and has actually entered the phase of establishing firm foundations for a permanent solution to its crisis. One thing which supports this point of view is the fact that Lebanon today is enjoying some circumstances which favor this, and they could be summed up as being the following:

1. The Soviet Union has decided to actively support Lebanon's independence, unity, and freedom, and has called for the holding of an international conference to deal with the Middle East. It has become obvious that the withdrawal of the U.S. and the multinational forces from Lebanon and the change in the internal Lebanese situation to the disadvantage of those loyal to Israel have impelled the Soviet Union to adopt a positive position vis-a-vis the Lebanese government, especially after the formation of the government of national unity.
2. The U.S. has discovered--although belatedly--that it is unable to impose a U.S.-Israeli solution on Lebanon and that it is impossible to link the issue of Lebanon to the Camp David agreements as long as there are National Forces in Lebanon and as long as there are Arab forces in the Lebanese hinterland which reject submission to this policy. During the last few weeks, the U.S. position has changed somewhat from being a rather hostile policy after the cancellation of the 17 May agreement to being a position which at least seems to be more positive than before. In any case, the U.S. position will be a neutral one till the date of the presidential election in the U.S.
3. The Syrian position is the fundamental element which is providing an impetus for progress in the Lebanese situation. Nowadays it has become clear that Damascus has thrown its weight behind efforts to achieve a solution which will allow Lebanon to retain its national unity. Damascus played the basic role when it came to establishing principles for the solution, helping to form the government of national unity, and contributing toward overcoming the psychological barriers which had forced the Lebanese to be in different camps and to occupy different trenches--from which all of the Lebanese vetoed each other's efforts and isolated themselves from each other. Damascus then came and said that the National Forces in Lebanon have a place when it comes to administering the affairs of the country and that without the participation

of these National Forces there would be no stable government. Damascus also said that there are deep historical causes for the apprehensions of our Christian brethren concerning some legal and constitutional matters and that these apprehensions should be dealt with by political means rather than by violence.

4. The Israeli position is in continual retreat, no matter what Israel claims. The reason for this is that the struggle which has been engaged in by the Lebanese people and the forces of Arab liberation during 1983 and 1984 has changed the situation and has eliminated many of the gains achieved by Israel during its invasion of Lebanon in the summer of 1982. Where is the government which Israeli propped up on the ruins of Lebanon's unity and independence? Where is the domination by a political party which now prevails only in certain very small areas of the country? Where is the 17 May agreement? Where is the Dubayyah office? Where is the previous deviation in government policy, according to which it was claimed that all power was in the hands of Shamir?

This policy totally collapsed after the fighting in Mount Lebanon, the battle in the southern suburbs [of Beirut], and the uprising in Beirut. These four factors--in addition to the fact that the Lebanese believe that 10 years of destructive war have not solved any of their internal problems--impel me to state that we have begun to see the light at the end of the tunnel and that the road toward our solution has already begun to be paved.

Security of Mount Lebanon

[Question] When will the security plan for Mount Lebanon be implemented, and to what extent will it affect what has been achieved in Beirut, especially since some people are saying that the security of Mount Lebanon is linked to the security of Beirut?

[Answer] The security of every area of Lebanon is linked to the security of every other area. We cannot say that the security of Beirut is linked only to the security of Mount Lebanon. The security of Beirut is linked to the security of North Lebanon, and the security of Beirut, North Lebanon, and Mount Lebanon is linked to the security and liberation of South Lebanon. I do not believe that we will have a moment's rest before we achieve our goal of liberating South Lebanon, the western Biqa' area, and Rashayya from Israeli occupation. The day that the legitimate government authority of a united and independent Lebanon extends to al-Naqurah and to our international borders is the day that we will be able to say that our security plan has been successful and has achieved its objectives.

Mount Lebanon and North Lebanon represent two phases of the phases which comprise the solution. The plan for North Lebanon might begin before the plan for Mount Lebanon, or vice-versa. However, there still are numerous steps which we must take along the path of expanding our security plan. They include the completion of the reconstruction of the Lebanese army and the definite reopening of Lebanon's basic communication routes--that is, the Beirut-Tripoli road, the Beirut-Sidon road, and the Beirut-Damascus road. If this can be achieved, then the problems of the Lebanese hinterland will become merely a matter of working out details.

As far as the plan for Mount Lebanon in particular is concerned, we have already made a great deal of progress with the preparation of this plan. We hope that this preparation work will constitute still another step along the path toward achieving a comprehensive solution for the problem of Lebanon. We cannot separate South Lebanon from North Lebanon and the Biqa' area, and we cannot say that the security of Beirut is linked only to the security of Mount Lebanon.

The al-Kharrub Area

[Question] What is the status of the al-Kharrub area, given its current situation, with regard to the security plan which is intended to be implemented in Mount Lebanon?

[Answer] There are two situations which exist in the al-Kharrub area. Most of the area is linked to the areas which have been liberated by the National Forces in Mount Lebanon. These areas will consequently undergo the same change that will take place in the other areas of Mount Lebanon. Some of the al-Kharrub area, however, is still under the domination of Israel and the "Forces." The future of this area depends on the issue of the withdrawal of Israel and the opening up of the road to South Lebanon. It is inaccurate to say that Israel maintains a presence beyond the al-Awwali River. The fact is that Israel maintains a presence beyond the al-Damur River. It is Israel that is closing the coastal road and is occupying, whether directly or indirectly, the villages along the coastline of the southern al-Shuf area and the villages directly to the north and south of the al-Awwali River. This is why we consider that these areas are areas which are occupied by Israel and which have not been liberated, and thus we consider their fate to be linked to the fate of the occupied Lebanese areas.

The Relocated People: A Single Issue

[Question] What is your opinion about having the relocated people return to Mount Lebanon in view of the existence of conditions both favorable and unfavorable to the solution of this problem?

[Answer] There are no conditions unfavorable to solving this issue. The issue of the relocated people in Lebanon is a single issue. At the conferences of Geneva and Lausanne we reached agreement concerning--and the ministerial communique ratified--the principle that Lebanese who have been relocated from any area since 1975 have the right to return to their homes, their jobs, and their means of earning their living. Restricting the issue of the relocated people only to Mount Lebanon means fragmenting the issue--in fact, it means obstructing the issue. We fully welcome the return by our Christian brethren from Mount Lebanon to their villages. However, we will not allow this principle to be a fragmented one. Those from al-Naba'ah must be allowed to return to al-Naba'ah, those from 'Ayn al-Rummanah must be allowed to return to 'Ayn al-Rummanah, and the same principle should be followed for people from all of the other areas of Lebanon. The issue of the relocated people is a single issue. There is no such thing as "first-class relocated persons" and

"second-class relocated persons" along the lines of what we have had ever since independence--which has been "first-class citizens" and "second-class citizens."

Decentralization of Security and Political Decentralization

[Question] Some people fear that the decentralization of security which currently prevails in Lebanon will lead to the consolidation of political decentralization. In your opinion, is there any justification for this fear?

[Answer] I do not believe that this is possible in a country such as Lebanon. During the last century Lebanon experienced various forms of fragmentation such as the two separately administered districts [qa'im maqamiyatayn] and other forms of fragmentation due to the intervention of foreign forces. All of these forms of fragmentation failed and what they led to was new civil wars.

This nation can only live as a united nation. It may happen that an additional province or two will be added to Lebanon, the election law may be modified, or additional central administrative authorities might appear in various areas of the country in order to serve the country's citizens. However, this does not mean fragmentation or political decentralization. In view of what is said about the actual situation being, to some degree, one of decentralization as far as security is concerned, we are trying to quickly transform this decentralization into a situation of more centralization. For 2 weeks now we have had a fifth and sixth brigade, and now we have a mixed brigade at the points of contact between opposing forces.

For a month we have had a brigade in Hammana and we are trying to beef it up so that this brigade can be entrusted with the security of Mount Lebanon. The military brigades in North Lebanon which may play a role in the security plan which will be implemented in North Lebanon are mixed brigades. They were not used in the battles which were waged by the government against the Lebanese people during the initial period of its administration. Thus we are moving toward eliminating decentralization of security and are not moving toward establishing political decentralization.

The Political Dossier

[Question] When will Lebanon's political dossier be opened, now that there are signs that the nation's security dossier is being closed?

[Answer] My view is that our leaders have concentrated on the security dossier in order that we not suffer reverses when the political dossier is opened. The reasoning has been that the political dossier will be a long and tough one to deal with, voices will be raised, ideas will be proposed, and there will be conflicts. For this reason, it is necessary to first provide the atmosphere which will insure that there be a democratic dialogue and that it continue in such a way as to lead us and the whole country toward the reform which we seek--that is, toward exemplary democracy, equality of opportunities, and the prevention of one party or religious sect from dominating the government in Lebanon from now on.

At the same time, I believe that the political dossier will also be dealt with soon because it is also possible for us to suffer reverses if we have a situation where we have dealt only with security matters and not with political matters. This is something which must be supported by serious and in-depth political statements. These are statements which the Lebanese aspire to see translated into constitutional, administrative, military, and other types of reforms. It is for this reason that I believe that we will see the political dossier opened during August or during the first part of September at the very latest.

Security of West Beirut

[Question] What is your assessment of the security of West Beirut, particularly in view of the fact that many people are saying that there are many shortcomings in the security situation there?

[Answer] Hostile parties and trouble-makers have often tried, both before and after the uprising in Beirut, to cause trouble in West Beirut on the basis of their outmoded premises and points of view. But in spite of the reverses which have been suffered by this part of our capital city, matters have remained within the framework of the policy of the "long, narrow corridors" and there will be no more war between brothers in West Beirut, no matter what the trouble-makers might attempt to do.

Liberation of the Occupied Areas

[Question] What is your view concerning the approach for liberating South Lebanon, the western Biqa' area, and Rashayya in view of the preparation to establish a Lebanese concept regarding security arrangements in South Lebanon?

[Answer] The matter of liberating any of these territories is a matter which is organically linked to the existing political and military situation. When Lebanon was weak and was psychologically occupied and helpless vis-a-vis the enemy, it concluded the 17 May agreement--that is, the type of agreement which consolidates the occupation through various means.

Today, however, the liberation of our government from a particular type of hegemony which has been linked to a particular foreign hegemony is something which will make it easy for Lebanon to force Israel to withdraw from its territory no matter how hard Israel tries to continue occupying Lebanese territory. The issue is one of liberating ourselves before liberating our territory. Our government has, thank God, been liberated from the effects of the Israeli invasion of the summer of 1982. The government which Israel set up during that fateful summer has collapsed, and all of the structure and symbols have also collapsed. In its place there has been set up a government of national unity which includes all the parties and forces of Lebanon. Even those forces which, for a certain period of time, believed that they would benefit from the Israeli occupation have discovered that this occupation would be a disaster for them as well as for everyone else in Lebanon.

For this reason, I believe that we should have a clear, simple, and courageous Lebanese policy which shows no fear of Israel and does not yield to U.S. pressure, but instead addresses the U.S.--which, as we know, determines Israeli policy--in a frank, clear, and decisive manner concerning the necessity to liberate Lebanon's territory. If this is not done, all of this territory will be transformed into a fire which will bring about the doom of Israel's hegemony in the area and its military invincibility.

Our people in South Lebanon, in the western Biqa' area, and Rashayya have proved during the 2 years of the occupation that they are the most eager of the Arabs to engage in efforts to achieve liberation. I believe that, no matter what government comes to power as a result of the recent elections in Israel, Israel will not be able to remain long in Lebanese territory.

Relationship with Amal

[Question] What is the nature of your relationship with the Amal Movement?

[Answer] We have no differences with the Amal Movement concerning any matter. In fact, the common struggle being waged by the National Forces, the PSP, and the Amal Movement is what has made it possible for both us and the Amal Movement to see the liberation of Beirut, the imposition of the cancellation of the 17 May agreement, the establishment of the government of national unity, and the adoption of the reform principles which were stated in the ministerial declaration.

Even though some various interpretations have arisen among our comrades-in-arms, we find that they are interpretations of the sort that normally arise within the framework of any single party. We and Amal and the rest of the people in the National Forces constitute a single national group.

Role of the Arab Nations in Lebanon

[Question] What should the Arab nations be expected to do vis-a-vis Lebanon now that Lebanon has chosen the Arab option after the cancellation of the agreement with the Zionist enemy?

[Answer] Since Lebanon has chosen the Arab option, the Arab nations should support this policy of Lebanon's and consolidate and protect it so that Lebanon does not suffer any reverses or be the victim of a negative reaction. Israel has once again attempted to penetrate to the grass-roots level of Lebanese politics in order to influence Lebanese policy--particularly since Lebanon has chosen the Arab option. I am confident that President al-Jumayyil and the government of Prime Minister Karami are determined to pursue this option and no other. I have heard words to this effect from President al-Jumayyil himself.

Expansion of the Government

[Question] What is your position with regard to the proposal calling for expansion of the present government, and what is your opinion concerning this matter?

[Answer] The size of the government and the number of the members of the government are things which are not important at this stage. The phase which we are going through is one of imposing a united national solution to our security problem and it is a phase of opening up the political dossier. When we have passed through these two phases, everything will have been properly dealt with. The administration of the nation's affairs might require some expansion of the government, but right now, at our present stage, I do not see any justification for such an expansion.

9468

CSO: 4404/2

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

'ARAFAT TALKS ABOUT PLO UNITY, ATTEMPTS TO UNDERMINE CAUSE

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic No 81, 27 Oct-2 Nov 84 pp 8-9

[Interview with Yasir 'Arafat by Salih Zaytun: "In a Candid Interview with AL-TADAMUN 'Arafat Says, 'They Are Trying To Kill Me So I Do Not Expose Them!'" ; in Doha, date not specified]

[Text] Those who are blocking the summit meeting are afraid that a summit conference will be held and their secrets will be exposed.

We will convene the National Council, and you can expect a major surprise.

The Soviets are on our side; Egypt's position is changing; and the relationship with Jordan is a strategic one.

Last week Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat escaped certain death. The man whose life has been targeted and whose enemies have grown weary of their attempts to assassinate him almost died in an airplane accident.

The story behind this is that Abu 'Ammar left San'a' Airport on Thursday, 19 October. He was planning to go to Baghdad to commence a tour of the Arab countries. But the airplane had technical trouble as soon as it took off. The pilot of the private Iraqi airplane that had been sent to 'Arafat could not retract the airplane's wheels. One of the wheels exploded in the air, and debris hit the propellor. So the airplane was forced to return to San'a' Airport where the pilot executed an emergency landing for the airplane that was likely to explode.

'Arafat had to wait in the airport for several hours before al-Shaykh Zayid, president of the United Arab Emirates could send him a special airplane to take him to Abu Dhabi where he began a tour of the Gulf states that took him also to Doha where AL-TADAMUN interviewed him. After that he went to Jeddah to follow up on the grave escalation in the Iraq-Iran War with the Islamic Conference Organization. We started the interview with a question about the airplane accident.

I asked 'Arafat, "Don't you fear death?"

He replied confidently, "Death is a right!"

[Question] But do you, the flying Palestinian, expect to escape from airplane accidents?

[Answer] I don't think about these fears. What I know is that many people are waiting for me to die. In fact, they are trying to bring about my death.

[Question] An Israeli leader said of you that you have defied death and that you've escaped from numerous assassination attempts and numerous sieges and confrontations.

[Answer] But the enemy still has plans to get rid of me, and fellow Arabs are taking part in plans to assassinate me. They want to kill me so I would not expose them and reveal their secrets.

[Correspondent's note:] 'Arafat revealed here that several groups had been arrested in Tunisia, Romania, Italy, Turkey and Greece for undertaking a series of assassination attempts against the leaders of the organization in Tunisia and against its representatives in those countries.

[Question] But for how long will you await death and face the escalation of assassination attempts against you without taking counter action?

[Answer] I would prefer not to talk about that. But we are not staying idle.

[Question] What are those secrets you are talking about and that you fear you might be killed before you reveal?

[Answer] Let me leave that to the Palestine National Council. It is the only body authorized to look into the secrets of the stage. The Palestine National Council is the only body that can find out how far people are going in plotting against this nation. But I will let you in on a few of those secrets.

'Arafat took a paper out of his pocket and said, "This document was handwritten by the late Kamal Junblat, warning of a plan to partition Lebanon. Junblat himself was approached for his advice to carry it out, but he refused. He warns against the monster of sectarian sedition which was unleashed by an Arab country in the heat of its efforts to look for a distinguished role in the region."

'Arafat added, "We had this sectarian monster under control in Beirut, and we were preventing Lebanon from being partitioned into cantons. When we left Beirut, however, the monster broke away from its chains, and sectarian separation began."

[Question] It's also been noticed that you were not spared by this monster and that there is a split within the Liberation Organization.

[Answer] There is no split among Palestinians. There is rather a conspiracy that began on 4 June 1982 with the Israeli invasion. This conspiracy is even now being carried out by Israeli, American and Arab functionaries. I do not find this viciousness in fighting the Liberation Organization strange because the PLO

is the living witness of all the crimes that have been committed against our nation. We are confident that no one can write us off as long as there is one Palestinian boy.

The split you are referring to was nothing more than a storm that appeared more ominous that it was and then fizzled out. All the secondary players disappeared from the stage, and the real players and actual executors of the liquidation conspiracy appeared. They wanted to give the impression that the conspiracy was a Palestinian action.

[Question] How far have matters gone?

[Answer] The plot is now receding after the series of defeats that befell it. We stood fast in Beirut, and we overcame the predicament in Tripoli. The split was brought to an end by those who had created it. The conspiracy to delay the meeting of the National Council will not continue because we are now obligated to convene that council as we've been advised to do by 90 independent Palestinians who advised that the council be convened no later than 20 November. Then that chapter on the conspiracy will be closed forever.

[Question] What evidence do you have that the plots against you have been foiled when you are still looking for a place to convene the conference?

[Answer] We have not yet lost hope that our Arab homeland is large enough to welcome us. We have two offers from Iraq and Jordan, and we received an offer from Iran through Hashemi Rafsanjani, speaker of the Shura Council. But we turned down Iran's offer because it did not meet our condition that the Iraq-Iran war be brought to an end.

[Question] If matters do become impossible, are you really considering the possibility of convening the council on board a ship at sea?

[Answer] That is not impossible, but we are still hoping that there will be a place for us in the Arab homeland.

[Question] Isn't there an intention to convene the council in Tunisia?

[Answer] We do not wish to overburden our fellow Tunisians, although we did submit a request to the Arab League indicating that Tunisia would be the last choice.

[Question] What are your plans for the future during the council meeting and afterwards?

[Answer] All Palestinian questions will be discussed at the council meeting, including national unity, relations with Egypt, Jordan and Syria and the international conference.

[Question] Is there a place for the armed struggle on the agenda?

[Answer] The Palestinian Kalashnikov is still in good condition, and it is regaining its vigor. Our military position is good, now that we've regained our

military balance in the aftermath of the recent upheaval. We will surprise the world with new operations that no one will have thought of.

[Question] From what front?

[Answer] I would prefer not to talk about our secrets, but we are not without means, and we are still capable of reaching our homeland.

[Question] What about relations with the other fronts and the possibility of their attending the meeting of the National Council...?

[Answer] Everyone is invited. Jordan and Iraq have guaranteed everyone's attendance, even that of dissidents, as long as everyone's attendance serves the interests of national Palestinian unity. However, the position of the Popular Front is harmful to this unity because it has chosen to align itself with Syria which is trying to delay the meeting of the council. We are still hoping that the other parties to the Aden Accord will come to the meeting, and we are certain that more than two thirds of the council members will come. We guarantee that about 254 members of the council will come.

[Question] Aren't you afraid that another liberation organization might be declared in Damascus?

[Answer] Who will dare to infringe upon the legal Palestinian organization? The Liberation Organization is this scarf--he pointed to his scarf and went on to say this: "Their attempts will end in their isolation, and they will be despised by our people who declared their unequivocal position of support for the legitimate organization and its leaders."

[Question] Are you always optimistic despite difficulties?

[Answer] I am optimistic because I see events through objective facts and not through the distortions with which they try to persuade the world. The facts I have are as persuasive as one plus one equals two.

[Question] And what if the subject of your visit to Egypt comes up for discussion? How will you face the council?

[Answer] The positive development in Egypt's position toward the Palestinian question provides certain evidence that the evaluation we made of Egypt's major role was suitable and accurate. We are stating here for the record that we are proud of Egypt's national position as stated in statements made by President Mubarak, by his advisor, Usamah al-Baz and by his UN minister of foreign affairs 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid. These are positions that truly express a policy that is completely different from the Camp David policy. I believe that the National Council will understand what essential relationship we have to have with Egypt after it put into effect the decisions we made at the previous meeting of the council: that our rapprochement with Egypt be proportionate to its movement away from the Camp David policy.

[Question] But the Syrian campaign against you because of Egypt is still going on, is it not?

[Answer] The Syrians are trying to falsify facts. It is for this reason that they fear a meeting of the National Council. They do not want me to bring out the vital documents I have about communications between Syria and Egypt in which we took part. They also fear an Arab summit meeting because they don't want the facts that have to do with these communications to be revealed. They know that we contacted Mubarak in Egypt together to persuade Egypt to freeze that part of the Camp David Accords that has to do with the Palestinians. This is what is happening now, and we are aware of the visits that officials of the two countries are exchanging.

[Question] By the way, do you expect that the summit conference will be held?

[Answer] I hope so because rapidly developing situations require this summit meeting to be held. However, there are still major factors delaying that meeting. I believe that Syria fears this summit meeting because it does not want to be surprised by the big question that will be posed to it. "You, Syrians, went into Lebanon on the basis of a resolution made by the Riyadh Summit Conference to protect the Resistance and to ensure the unity of Lebanon. Can you explain what has happened to the Resistance and to the unity of Lebanon?"

[Question] Now that relations between Egypt and Jordan have been restored, is there any effort by Palestinians to join that course and establish a tripartite alliance?

[Answer] We oppose the policy of alliances. The step that Jordan took is a step that concerns Jordan, but we support any step that would bring the Arab countries closer together. We have to appreciate those practical steps that were put into effect during the administration of President Mubarak: steps that moved Egypt away from the Camp David policy. At any rate we are confident in the national directions that are being pursued by both countries. These will prevent damage to Palestinian interests.

[Question] Does this mean that your relations with Jordan are good?

[Answer] Not only are they good, they are also strategic. We've made considerable progress in the effort to achieve unity between us. In our quest for a uniform formula we've presented to the Jordanian government a Palestinian paper that includes our view of a confederation between both sides, and we are awaiting Jordan's response and its view on the matter.

[Question] Do you intend to visit Jordan soon then?

[Answer] I am touring the Arab countries now, and Jordan is one of the countries I will visit. All these matters will be discussed.

[Question] What is your evaluation of the Soviet attitude toward the split and toward the Liberation Organization?

[Answer] The Soviet posture has been one of support for the legitimate command of the Liberation Organization. I sensed that in the course of two meetings I had with Andrei Gromyko in Berlin. I believe the Soviets have realized the dangers of a split and of the attempts that are being made to liquidate the

organization. They are making efforts to persuade those who are involved in those attempts that what they are doing is dangerous.

[Question] Do you intend to visit Moscow soon?

[Answer] I do not expect to visit Moscow before the meeting of the National Council. At any rate, Fatah's Central Committee has had several invitations, and Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu Mazin) did visit Moscow recently.

[Question] One final question. Are you still confident about convening the National Council?

[Answer] My confidence about this is like the confidence I have in the light I see at the end of this tunnel. The council will be convened on schedule, and you can expect a major surprise then.

8592

CSO: 4404/79

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

ERIC ROULEAU DISCUSSES BOOK ON PALESTINIANS

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic No 85, 24-30 Nov 84 pp 67-68

[Interview with Eric Rouleau, Chief of Middle East Section in LE MONDE: "Reagan Will Do Nothing; the Palestinians Have no Choice but To Fight"; in Paris]

[Text] "The Palestinians made a mistake when they turned down an invitation from Cyrus Vance in 1968 to participate in a peace conference in Geneva. There are no peaceful solutions looming on the Middle East horizon."

"The Palestinians: from One War to Another" is the title of a recently published book by Eric Rouleau, chief of the Middle East Section in the French newspaper, LE MONDE. The book has a collection of interviews he conducted with Palestinian leaders. In addition, there is a review of the political and military stages that the Palestinian question went through during the past 10 years.

AL-TADAMUN interviewed Eric Rouleau in connection with the International Press Conference that was held in Paris late last month. Mr Rouleau participated in the conference as a lecturer and a panelist. The following interview took place.

[Question] Why is your recent book entitled, "The Palestinians: from One War to Another?" What do you believe have been the effects of the different wars on the Palestinians' cause and on their military and political conditions?

[Answer] I chose this title because I believe the Palestinians have been living in a state of war. They've had to fight multi-lateral battles. I chose this title because I see no possibility in the near future for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East. The Palestinians have national aspirations for which they have been fighting. It is natural that when people who have been defending their just cause find that a peaceful settlement is unattainable, they will turn to the use of force. When I use the word, "war," in the context of my discussions on the Palestinians in the book, I am referring to war in the general sense: war in the form of guerilla warfare or assassination operations. The fact is that the war between the Palestinians and Israelis has never stopped, not since the Arab-Israeli conflict began. But it has assumed various and numerous forms. This is what I wanted to suggest by the title of my book, "The Palestinians: from One War to Another."

[Question] You talked at length in your book about the different interviews you conducted during the past 10 years with Palestinian leaders of different political tendencies. What in your opinion is the common denominator that these Palestinians have despite their occasional differences?

[Answer] It is a fact that all the Palestinians I interviewed, whether they were supporters of Yasir 'Arafat, members of George Habash's movement, of Natif Hawatimah's movement or of some other movement, affirmed that power can never be relinquished [in their struggle] to regain their national rights. As I wrote in the introduction to my book, no diplomatic effort can succeed unless it is supported by power. In my opinion, power is manifested in a declared war, as was the case in Lebanon. That power may be political or economic. If we were to assume, for example, that the Arab countries were prepared today to use oil as a weapon to support the Palestinians' struggle and to force the world to help them achieve their national aspirations, I believe that such an Arab measure would mean that power was being used. To put it briefly, after years of continuous contacts with Palestinians, I can say that for several years now I have not met a single Palestinian who was willing to give up power, including the use of diplomatic power, to attain a just, political solution to the Palestinian question.

[Question] Since you talk in your book about the wars that the Palestinians fought, do you believe that these wars have weakened the Palestinians?

[Answer] Yes and no. Yes, the wars did weaken the Palestinians because there are no Palestinian fighters now on Israel's borders. I do not believe, however, that the absence of Palestinians fighters from Israel's borders has weakened the Palestinians because the strength of any national liberation movement lies in the objective it is trying to achieve. The Palestinians have been trying to achieve the same objective: they have been trying to regain their "national homeland" in Palestine. It is for this reason that I say that although the Palestinians' cause is almost 40 years old, all Palestinians are still maintaining their positions and demanding their rights. It would be difficult in such a case to defeat them militarily and decisively. Therefore, I say that Israel is making a big mistake when its leaders think they can eliminate the Palestinians by using military force. Any country can achieve a military victory against another country, but it cannot achieve a military victory against an entire nation and against people who want to live and who do not want expansion to take place at the expense of others.

I believe that the strength of the Palestinian people lies in the fact that they have no other way for getting their national rights but to continue fighting. The Palestinians may suffer military, political and diplomatic defeats, but they cannot nevertheless be considered people who have been finally defeated. Herein lies the tragedy of Israel: despite all its power, its advanced weapons and the support it has from the superpowers, it has not yet been able to accomplish a crushing military defeat of the Palestine Liberation Organization. It has not been able to break the national aspirations of the Palestinian people.

[Question] We noticed that you began the first chapter of your book with a discussion of your first interview with Yasir 'Arafat in 1964 in Cairo. Does

such a beginning for a book on the Palestinian people mean that you want to show world public opinion that 'Arafat symbolizes the Palestinian struggle despite the opposition of some people and their protests?

[Answer] That is true. Quite true. I wanted to do this for two reasons. First, because Yasir 'Arafat, until further notice, is the chairman of the PLO, and because the PLO is still on the scene with all its power and its effectiveness despite everything to which it has been subjected in recent years. There are, of course, different points of view within the PLO, and it is natural for me to begin the book by talking about the man who was chosen officially and legally to be the leader of the Palestinian movement. I would underscore the word, "legal," because 'Arafat was chosen chairman of the PLO in the Palestine National Council.

The second reason I began my book by talking about Yasir 'Arafat is because the man, whether one likes him or not, is regarded by the majority of Palestinians, despite the fact that he made many mistakes, as the symbol of Palestinian unity and the Palestinian struggle. I know many Palestinians, and I even know Palestinians who are not in the PLO. Although they do not agree with Yasir 'Arafat, they used to tell me that Yasir 'Arafat remains the symbol and the leader. I believe that this is not due to his prestige, but it is due to the fact that the Palestinian people want a positive outcome. Today, the Palestinian people have reached a stage of political maturity, and they know that if they were to become divided into several organizations, that division would not serve the cause of the Palestinian people at all.

[Question] Western diplomatic circles are quite eager these days to have the PLO participate in all efforts for a settlement in the area. Do you believe that the organization is ready to do that despite the disputes within its ranks?

[Answer] Actually, in 1968 the PLO made a political decision that showed considerable maturity and political acumen. That was a decision to establish a democratic state in Palestine in which Jews, Muslims and Christians would live together side by side. That decision showed world public opinion that it would be a mistake to think that the PLO intended to kick the Jews out of Palestine. Quite the contrary, it was calling for peaceful coexistence among the three religions. Since then, the PLO has taken many political steps that brought it closer to an implicit recognition of Israel, particularly after the historic decision that was made by the Palestine National Council when it met in Cairo in June 1974. That council meeting called for acceptance of the principle of two states in Palestine: a Palestinian state and a Jewish state.

All these political indicators confirm that the PLO was pursuing a course of political maturity. Regardless of the Palestinians' feelings for Jews and Israelis, they understood that they had to coexist with them in one state. The statements that 'Arafat made announcing his willingness to attend an international conference in which all concerned parties would participate to bring about a just peace in the area are too numerous to mention. Nevertheless, the political maturity that the PLO did achieve does not mean that it did not make major mistakes. Here, however, I want to talk about only one mistake that the PLO made in November 1977.

There was talk then about extending an official invitation to the PLO to take part in a Middle East Peace Conference in Geneva. When Cyrus Vance, former U.S. secretary of state toured the area, he suggested that the PLO participate in the Geneva Conference. The organization should have accepted the invitation to participate in that conference without setting preconditions for its participation. I am saying the PLO should have accepted that invitation without preconditions even if its presence were based on UN Security Council Resolution 242. This is because the fact that PLO representatives would sit beside Israel's representatives, beside the UN secretary general and beside representatives of the United States and the Soviet Union would have meant a high level recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people to a homeland as well as recognition of the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. It is for this reason that I think the organization should have agreed to take part in that conference despite the fact that UN Security Council Resolution 242 does not achieve the national aspirations of the Palestinian people. If the Palestinians had participated in Geneva, Israel and the United States would have been forced to accept the reality of the Palestinians.

[Question] It is known that you spent a long time in the Institute for International Studies in Washington and that you examined closely the assumptions of U.S. policy in the Middle East. Why do you think Washington still refuses to recognize the PLO?

[Answer] I believe there are several reasons for that. First, the United States does not want to provoke Israel's anger because there are Israelis who think that recognizing the right of Palestinians to establish their homeland over a portion of Palestine would pose a grave threat to them. These Israelis say that if the Palestinians' right to establish a homeland over a portion of Palestine is recognized, the state of Israel will eventually disappear sooner or later from the other part. The United States does not want to provoke Israel's anger, but this is not due only to Jewish votes, as it's being said. The United States' absolute support for Israel is due to international strategic reasons. Israel is the best ally the United States has had throughout its history. Israel supports U.S. policy, and it supports U.S. presence not only in the Middle East, but also in South America, Africa and Asia. No U.S. official can risk endangering the distinguished relations between Washington and Tel Aviv. The other reason [for U.S. reluctance to provoke Israel's anger] is that Americans today do not have confidence in the PLO because there are several tendencies within the organization.

[Question] It is being said that President Ronald Reagan will assume a new diplomatic posture during his second term in office to solve the Palestinian question. Do you agree with that view?

[Answer] I believe that politicians and international leaders assume the postures that they do only because of the pressures that are applied to them. This applies to President Reagan who, I don't think, will launch an initiative to solve the Palestinian question unless he were forced to do so either by world-wide pressure or by joint Arab pressure applied directly to the man in the White House. Danger to U.S. interests will most certainly cause Americans to pay attention to the Palestinian question. By nature Americans are not inclined to

show any interest in the Palestinian question. I personally met many U.S. officials, and all of them told me that the Palestinian question was not important. They said it has been there for several years and it will be there for many more. They do not believe that the Palestinian problem is a serious problem for which a quick solution must be found. But I also believe that the Americans who are politically realistic will change their minds when they see that their interests are being threatened, and when they become subjected to pressure to solve the Palestinian problem.

8592

CSO: 4404/79

QATAR

BRIEFS

DROP IN QATARI IMPORTS--The total value of Qatari imports of all goods during the first half of 1984 was 2,010,822,000 Qatari riyals. The share of the second quarter--April, May, June--was 1,055,873,000 Qatari riyals, with an increase of 10.57 percent on the first quarter of 1984. Muhammad Ma'yuf al-Nu'aymi, director of the central organ of statistics, told QNA that the statistics showed, in the report prepared by the central organ of statistics in Qatar's foreign trade, that imports during the first half of 1984 equalled 65.43 percent of the imports during the first half of 1983. [Excerpts] [Doha QNA in Arabic 0828 GMT 17 Nov 84]

CSO: 4400/36

AL-THAWRAH DAM TO IRRIGATE 10,540 HECTARES

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 31 Jul 84 p 3

[Article: "Dr al-Kasm Visits the Province of al-Ladhiqiyah: The al-Thawrah Dam on the al-Sanawbar River Will Irrigate 10,540 Hectares and Its Power Plants Will Produce 2.3 Million Kilowatt-Hours Per Year"]

[Text] The visit undertaken last week by Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Kasm to the Province of al-Ladhiqiyah represents part of the effort being made by the government to utilize all available potential and capacities in the area of exploiting water resources for irrigating lands and providing drinking water for many villages which are still waiting their turn to receive fresh water.

The fact is that those persons who accompanied the prime minister during his visit to the al-Thawrah dam, during the laying of the cornerstone for this large-scale project, and during his inspection tour of the work being done on the two 16 November dams on the northern part of the al-Kabir River and the al-Safarqiyah dam, noted with a certain measure of pride the enormity and importance of these projects and the bright future which they will provide us with after they have been implemented--both in the field of agriculture and in the field of providing drinking water.

According to initial studies, the estimated cost of the implementation of the project involving the al-Thawrah dam, which will be constructed on the al-Sanawbar River, is 410 million Syrian pounds. Also, the estimated cost of the irrigation network is 296 million Syrian pounds. This means that the total estimated cost is 706 million Syrian pounds.

At the present time the Directorate of Land Reclamation, which is part of the Ministry of Irrigation, is undertaking a study dealing with the construction of this dam on the al-Sanawbar River, as well as the irrigation network which will form a part of it. The purpose of the dam will be to store the winter rainwater of the al-Sanawbar River and the Difah River and to utilize the water from these two rivers to irrigate the lands adjacent to this dam.

Location of the Dam

The al-Thawrah is located near the village of Tarjanu, about 20 kilometers east of the city of al-Ladhiqiyah, and the water from the Difah River will be transported to the dam's storage basin via a tunnel which will be 3.4 kilometers long.

The estimated average annual runoff of the al-Sanawbar River is 75 million cubic meters, and the estimated average annual runoff of the Difah River is 25 million cubic meters. Thus the total average annual runoff for the two rivers is 100 million cubic meters of water, and this water will be utilized to irrigate a total land area of 10,540 hectares. This is the principal objective of constructing the dam. The irrigation of such a large land area is something which is considered to be quite important as far as the future of agriculture in our nation is concerned. According to the prime minister, when the government talked about [this year being] the "year of agriculture," the government "also had in mind these large-scale agricultural projects and other such projects which will be extremely important and fruitful in the future."

The second most important benefit which will result from the construction of the al-Thawrah dam is that the dam's water and the excess water will be utilized to produce electricity.

Concerning the types of crops which will be planted in the lands adjacent to the dam, initial expectations are that citrus fruits, vegetables, and tobacco will be grown in these irrigated areas. Because of the unevenness of the surface of the land embraced by this irrigation network, 62 percent of all of the irrigated lands involved will be irrigated by means of using pumps and the remaining lands will be irrigated by means of using manual labor.

The total amount of electric power required to operate the pumping stations is 4.3 million kilowatt-hours per year, and the fundamental capacity of these eight pumping stations is 1,800 kilowatts. Part of the electric power used by the pumping stations will be provided by the power plant connected with the dam which will be having a capacity of 6 kilowatts.

Basic Information About the Dam

According to initial studies, the al-Thawrah dam will be a dam of earthen construction with a kaolin clay base to prevent filtration. A number of installations will be linked to the dam, and they are the following--the drainage outlet, the discharger, and the irrigation water source and the power plant.

The dam will be 74.6 meters high. Its total storage volume will be 98 million cubic meters. Also, its stagnant water volume will be 9 million cubic meters and its useful storage volume will be 89 million cubic meters. The reservoir lake will cover a total area of 365 hectares. Also, the total amount of earth used for the construction of the dam will be 5.4 million cubic meters. The dam will be about 1,100 meters long.

Work Done on the Implementation of the Project

Concerning the work that has been done on the implementation of the project, it should be mentioned that the Bulgarian company, during autumn of last year, undertook field studies of the site for the dam and the irrigation system and will be submitting the first study during January of 1985. On the basis of directives given, agreement was reached with the company that the company should submit implementation plans for the initial work to be done on the dam--and this includes the roads and the discharger--on 1 July 1984, and this was necessary in order to begin implementation this summer.

The company then actually submitted these plans on 1 July 1984 and they were handed over to the Military Housing Organization along with the technical terms and specifications of the company's study and its bid to implement the project. The Bulgarian company has informed the responsible authorities that the general plan for the project has been finished. This plan will be reviewed and agreement will be reached with the company's experts in the near future to have the study proceed on the basis of this plan. After the first phase is submitted in January of 1985, and after agreement is reached concerning this first phase, work will begin on studying the second phase involving implementing the implementation plans for the remaining parts of the dam, and this will permit the continuation of its implementation.

9468

CSO: 4404/2

FARMERS EXPLAIN POOR COTTON CROP

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 18 Aug 84 p 4

[Article by Mustafa Najjar: "Why Were 300,000 Dunams of Cotton Replanted This Year? Some Said It Was Because of the Cotton Suffocation Disease, and Others Said It Was Because the Roots Were Rotten, But All Agreed That the Main Reason Was the Early Planting of the Cotton"]

[Text] The cotton conference demanded that the seeds be disinfected with fungus disinfectants, but.....!

In spite of everything, the cotton crop situation is a good one and good results are expected.

This year there were large areas which had been planted with cotton and which ended up being plowed under and replanted, and this cost our nation millions of Syrian pounds. What was the reason or reasons which led to the low rates of growth of this cotton and which required replanting?

In order to discover the answer to this question, we had to bring up a series of questions dealing with the matter from the point of view of various aspects, utilizing the information that we were able to obtain from some of the parties concerned.

What happened to the cotton crop this year?!

Position Taken by the Directorate of the Cotton Bureau

First of all it was necessary for us to get in touch with the Cotton Bureau since this organization is the technical organization which specializes in the area of cotton and since it was the Cotton Bureau which first sounded the alarm and called for help. But in spite of our repeated efforts, the only information which we were able to get was the information which told us that a total area of 300,000 dunams had to be replanted in Syria. The other information concerning the matter was sent to the Ministry [of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform] by mail, and we were told to get the information from the ministry. We were also advised not to pry into this sensitive technical matter!!

Information From al-Ghab

Accompanied by some experts from the Seed Supply Organization and the Research Center, we went to the al-Ghab area and there we met with the agricultural engineers 'Abd-al-Karim Bakir, director general of the al-Ghab Investment Organization, Karim Hazim, director of the Prevention Department, and Habib Jarraj, director of Agricultural Affairs. They provided us with the following information:

In al-Ghab, a total area of 225,000 dunams was planted with cotton. Of this total, 26,000 dunams were planted by machine and were planted with hulled seeds at a rate of from 5 to 6 kilograms of seeds per dunam. The other areas were planted in the conventional manner, at a rate of 15 kilograms of seeds per dunam.

The planting began early because of the dry spell and because the farmers were afraid that the moisture [in the soil] would dry up. The recent cotton conference had recommended that the planting be done during the month of April and that it be delayed till 15 May in the lands that are subject to flooding.

The area then experienced heavy rainfall between 9 and 29 April, and this was accompanied by low temperatures. After that, it was noted that the plants did not even come up in some of the fields, and in other fields the first sprouts of the crop died. All of this took place to varying degrees depending on the cotton field involved or the area of a given cotton field involved. The authorities were then duly notified concerning this.

On 1 May Mr Muhammad 'Ali Sabbagh, the assistant minister of agriculture, and Dr Farid Khuri, the director of the Cotton Bureau, came and undertook a field inspection together with a number of experts and technicians. After this inspection trip, a meeting was held and instructions were given to plow under the fields which had suffered damage to a large degree and to keep under observation the fields where the damage had not been intolerable.

The plowing under operations began on 1 May, and according to departmental reports, the total area plowed under was 60,000 dunams.

They said that the basic cause was the large-scale appearance of the plant suffocation disease--at rates varying from 15 to 90 percent, whereas last year this rate did not go above 20 percent. They believed that this was related to the early planting and the heavy rainfall for a long period of time, with its accompanying low temperatures.

As proof of the case they were making, they brought from the fields some green plants which already had stalks, leaves, and flowers.

Were these plants afflicted with rotting of their roots or with the cotton plant suffocation disease?

The al-Ghab technicians said that the cotton plant suffocation disease was the culprit, whereas the technicians from the Seed Supply Organization and the

Research Center said that it was because of the rotting of the roots of the plants, and as proof of this, the latter technicians pointed out that secondary roots had appeared which would enable the plants to continue their growth.

During our trip to some of the fields near al-Saqlabiyah, we saw some fields in good condition which had not been plowed under. There we met with a farmer who was irrigating his field and who said that he was glad that he had not heard the advice of his neighbor and had not plowed under his land. There we saw two fields next to each other. One of them had been plowed under, and the other had not been plowed under. The second one was in better shape than the first one, but the al-Ghab technicians pointed out that the reason for this was the lower elevation of the first field. There we also saw fields which had been replanted and which were also in good shape.

We met with Mr Mahmud Haddad, head of the Pioneering al-Karim Association. He told us that wind this year had also had its share of responsibility for the disaster since it had killed the plants over an area of 500 dunams of the association's lands. He pointed out that the damage had afflicted the crops which had been planted early, and the proof of this was the fact that there were 200 dunams which had not been plowed under and whose cotton plants were in good shape because their cotton had been planted later on.

Information From Maskanah

The following is some information from the Maskanah farms, as presented to us by Engineer Ziyad Qaysi, the director of the farms, and some of the technicians there:

"Starting 3 April we undertook the planting of cotton by machine, utilizing hulled seeds from the Seed Supply Organization at a rate of from 5 to 5.5 kilograms of seeds per dunam and utilizing the moist method when planting. We finished the planting on 10 May, and the total area planted with cotton was 1,495 hectares.

"After planting, we noticed that the first sprouts of the crop had difficulty emerging above the surface of the ground due to the packing of the soil which had resulted from the heavy rainfall. We then utilized a special machine to break up the layer of topsoil and lightly watered the fields, and by doing this we overcame the problem.

"Furthermore, some areas were hit by the black plant-louse, and the first sprouts grew to a size of only 2 dirqaqs [a unit of measure]. But this phenomenon then disappeared when the temperature went up. Also, some gnawing worms, spiders, and cotton-damaging insects appeared, and they were dealt with on the spot. As for the plant suffocation disease, it did not hit our farms.

"Of all of our total planted area, only 37 hectares were plowed under, and this was done there because of the low rates of germination and because it was not possible to deal with this problem in time to solve it."

Information and Opinions of the Aleppo Farmers' Federation

Mr Muhammad al-Husayn al-Ibrahim, head of the Farmers' Federation of the Province of Aleppo, had the following to say to us concerning this subject:

"This year was a strange one for us as farmers. In this province and with our cotton crop alone, we had to replant 4,200 hectares out of a total planted area of 24,000 hectares. All of this was because of the bad weather conditions which occurred during the period of time that we were advised by the 17th Cotton Conference to do our planting.

"On the basis of our practical experience with the land, we used to begin planting on 15 May, and this was done till the cotton conference set 10 April as the best date for the beginning of our planting, and our planting was then supposed to end on 15 May. I personally proposed to those who had gathered at the conference that the date of planting be set in accordance with the weather conditions.

"We proceeded in accordance with the advice and instructions given by the cotton conference and undertook our cotton planting by means of machine during the period between 10 and 20 April. We accelerated our operation because there were few seeding machines available. The result, however, was that everything which we planted in April stayed beneath the soil and we had to bear the expenses of replanting."

In response to a question as to whether or not this was because of the plant suffocation disease or because of the low germination rate of the seeds, he said: "Reports by the associations and field trips which we undertook have shown us that this was not due to the plant suffocation disease. If the plant suffocation disease did hit the crop, it was on a small scale which did not require replanting.

"As far as the rate of germination is concerned--particularly with regard to the hulled seeds--the federation conducted an initial germination experiment and the result was a germination rate of 90 percent. Nevertheless, we prefer to leave such matters up to the experts.

"But I should point out that the cotton crop is now in good shape in all areas of our province, and this is true both in the case of the originally-planted crop and the replanted crop. However, this does not mean that we are not demanding that there be a change in the planting date for our future crops and that this planting be done on the basis of the weather conditions prevailing in each area, and it does not mean that we are not demanding compensation for the farmers who suffered damages because they adhered to the instructions given by the cotton conference."

Information About the Crop in Idlib

A total of 18,000 dunams were planted with cotton in the Province of Idlib. The planting began on 1 April and continued till 20 April, in accordance with the instructions given by the cotton conference. However, there was heavy

rainfall between 15 and 22 April--a total of 80 millimeters--and there was a cold spell, and this resulted in the fact that no first sprouts appeared above the surface of the soil.

When the seeds under the surface of the soil were examined, it was discovered that more than 80 percent of them had germinated. However, the embryonic leaves were facing downward because of the rain and because of the formation of an impenetrable layer at the top of the soil which could not be penetrated by the first sprouts.

There is a document which indicates that the directorate had called the cotton conference's attention to this and had asked that the planting begin after 22 April. Nevertheless, the conference did not heed the directorate's opinion.

Information About the Crop in al-Raqqa

One of the documents put out by the Directorate of Planting in al-Raqqa at the end of June states that the total land area prepared and licensed which was actually planted with cotton amounted to 262,946 dunams. Of this total area, 190,800 dunams were planted by machine. An estimated total of 84,000 dunams had to be replanted because of the low rate of germination which occurred due to bad weather conditions. The replanting took place during the month of May.

Previous Information From al-Ghab

On page 20 of their Booklet No 1833, which came out on 28 April, those responsible for the planting done in al-Ghab had the following to say: "The heavy rainfall and low temperatures which prevailed from 9 April till 24 April resulted in the non-germination of seeds over a large area of the lands planted with cotton. For this reason, we request the purchase on credit of shipments of seeds in order to do replanting."

On 2 May the Directorate of the Cotton Bureau sent to the Seed Supply Organization Booklet No 2804 M. Q. 16, in which the following was mentioned: "As a result of the inspection tour which took place on 1 May in the areas of al-Ghab with the deputy minister and the officials in the area, we discovered that the plant suffocation disease had severely damaged the cotton and that the estimated total area which had initially been replanted was in the neighborhood of 60,000 dunams--and this applies both to the area planted by machine and the area still planted by conventional means."

What Does the Seed Supply Organization Say?

The Seed Supply Organization, according to the documents which it showed us, had, on the basis of the al-Ghab Agricultural Organization's booklet, issued an administrative order on 4 April to form a committee composed of representatives from the Seed Supply Organization, the al-Ghab Agricultural Organization, and the Hamah Agricultural Organization. The task of the committee was to inspect the damaged cotton fields in Hamah, to determine the causes of

the damage, and to prepare a report concerning this. The work of the committee was to commence on the morning of 2 May.

Did this committee ever meet, and did it carry out the task that it was entrusted with?

Engineer Sayyid Muhammad Sayyid Isma'il, production director for the Seed Supply Organization and chairman of the committee, said the following: "The committee did meet and it proceeded to carry out its task on the morning of 2 May, with the participation of the representatives of the Seed Supply Organization, Engineer Karim Hazim from the al-Ghab Agricultural Organization, and Engineers Ahmad Tayyarah and Muwaffaq al-Shishakli from the Hamah Agricultural Organization. However, the latter members of the committee withdrew from the committee the next day.

"After their withdrawal from the committee, we representatives of the Seed Supply Organization continued with our job and we sent to the main office a detailed report which stated the names of the farmers [who had planted cotton], the areas which had been planted, and the age of the cotton plants during our visit. This report also described the general situation, the method of planting utilized, the types of seeds used, the density of the plants, and the extent of the damage and the causes of the damage. This report is in the main office."

Results of the Germination Tests

After what had been said concerning the fact that the cause might have been the result of a low germination rate with the seeds used, the minister of agriculture issued Administrative Order No 514 of 31 May stipulating the formation of a committee to conduct testing of the germination of the cotton seeds.

The committee conducted its first test with samples of the seeds utilized, and the results were varied. However, the lowest germination rate was 80.5 percent in Pile No 78, and the highest germination rate was 92.5 percent in Pile No 10.

Apparently there were objections raised concerning the samples used. It was then proposed that samples be taken from the seeds remaining in the possession of the persons and organizations involved which had received the seeds and either planted them or distributed them to the farmers.

Such samples were then gathered, and a germination test was conducted with them at the laboratory of the Directorate of Research in Duma, and the results were as follows:

1. The lowest rate of germination, which was 83.25 percent, was found with seeds of the category Aleppo 1940 which had been delivered as hulled seeds to the Maskanah project.

2. The highest rate of germination, which was 93.25 percent, was also found with seeds of the category Aleppo 1940 which were delivered as unhulled seeds to the Main Bank of Dayr al-Zawr.

Information and Opinions

There were three points concerning which we wanted to hear the opinion of the Seed Supply Organization and concerning which we wished to get information which was available to this organization. We wanted to know the organization's opinion concerning what had happened, we wanted to know what role the organization played in both supplying and testing the seeds, and we wanted to know the organization's position concerning the matter of evaluation.

Dr Na'san Muhammad, the director general of the Seed Supply Organization, told us the following: "First of all, it is necessary to mention the fact that the replanting operations this year were not at all limited to the cotton crop. In fact, they included a number of summer crops such as okra, watermelons, etc. This was true because of the unfavorable weather conditions which prevailed.

"What happened to the cotton crop must be seen within this framework.

"The Seed Supply Organization did furnish the necessary seeds for planting, along with reserve seed supplies, and our organization also provided suitable storage facilities and conditions and conducted germination tests with the seeds before distributing them. As for the hulled seeds, our organization, on the basis of recommendations by the 17th Cotton Conference, furnished 3,100 tons of such hulled seeds which were hulled by the seed-hulling apparatuses of the al-Nayrab Agricultural Oils Factory. These are the only seed-hulling apparatuses available to us. We also conducted germination tests with these seeds both before and after hulling. We permitted the distribution only of seeds from the piles of seeds from which the germination rate was more than 80 percent.

"Of the 30,133 tons of such seeds which were produced, we distributed about 26,500 tons for the first planting and the replanting that was done in the damaged areas."

What About Disinfection?

"Before taking up in detail the matter of disinfection of the seeds before they are planted, we should mention what was decided at the cotton conferences concerning this matter.

"The 14th Cotton Conference entrusted the Directorate of Agricultural Research with the job of continuing to conduct experiments with fungus disinfectants intended to provide resistance to the plant suffocation disease.

"The 15th Cotton Conference once again entrusted this same directorate with the task of continuing to conduct experiments dealing with the cotton plant suffocation diseases.

"However, the 16th Cotton Conference decided to treat hulled cotton seeds intended to be planted by machine with fungus disinfectants designed to protect them against the plant suffocation disease. The Seed Supply Organization was given the job of performing this task beginning with 1984. In this connection, it was decided that the organizational apparatus intended to deal with this process be set up in such a way as to be appropriate for the utilization of the fungus disinfectants recommended by the competent authorities.

"The 17th Cotton Conference then once again stressed that the joint committee composed of members of the cabinet and the Agricultural Engineers' Federation should report its final decision concerning the necessity of treating cotton seeds with fungus disinfectants to the parties involved in this matter.

"What is the organization's opinion concerning disinfection, how did it respond to the recommendations of the cotton conferences, and what about the committee referred to by the last conference?

"Concerning the matter of disinfection, it might be useful to mention the experiment dealing with the utilization of disinfection which was conducted 7 years ago at the Tall al-Samn farm by the Cotton Bureau and the Seed Supply Organization. The experiment specified that 2 kilograms of hulled seeds be utilized for planting each dunam, in addition to 1 kilogram of seeds for supplementing planting in areas where the plants would not initially sprout. The quantity of seeds used for supplemental planting was to be gradually reduced to the point where it would not be utilized at all after 3 years had gone by and after agricultural expertise concerning planting by machine had been acquired.

"But so far the quantities of seeds decided upon by the conferences and actually used have been about 6 kilograms per dunam--that is, double the amount established for the experiment. Last year these same quantities of seeds were utilized. These additional quantities of seeds were provided in order to make up for any lack of germination due to whatever circumstances--including the plant suffocation disease.

"In other words, when a decision is taken to disinfect the seeds, this decision should be accompanied by another decision requiring reducing the amount of seeds utilized in each unit of land used for planting. Also, there should be a change in the method of planting utilized. Our farmers still soak the seeds before planting them. This process washes the pesticide off the seeds and renders the pesticide ineffective. We, as members of an economic organization, believe that, before the process of disinfection is applied everywhere, we need to conduct field studies and we have proposed that certain fields be set aside for experimental purposes. We have expressed our readiness to cooperate with the parties concerned, but so far nothing has happened."

Concerning the recommendations, Dr Muhammad said the following: "On the basis of the recommendation made by the 16th Cotton Conference, we asked

for the formation of a special technical committee to discuss this recommendation. The committee was formed, it held its first meeting on 26 July 1983, and this matter was discussed. The conclusion was that such planting should be done in large fields located in areas which have been hardest hit by the plant suffocation disease (al-Raqqah, Dayr al-Zawr, and al-Ghab), and that 10,000 dunams in each location should be planted starting in 1984. After that it would be possible to evaluate the results of these experimental fields in order to determine what process or processes should be used. The 17th Cotton Conference then once again stressed that this special committee should submit its final report concerning the treatment of cotton seeds with fungus disinfectants to the parties involved in this matter. However, this committee did not meet again and still has not issued its decision."

Opinion of a Specialist

Dr Jamal Ridwan, head of the Prevention Department in the Agricultural Research Center in Aleppo, shared his technical opinion with us concerning the issues that have been brought up. He said: "If the fields recently planted with cotton have been exposed to higher humidity and low temperatures, then the growth of the seeds will stop and the seeds will start rotting. In the case of planting by machine, in particular, the rainfall leads to hardening and packing of the surface crust [of the soil] and this prevents the first sprouts from penetrating through the surface.

"In such circumstances the first sprouts stop growing. They also are subject to being damaged by suffocation if the causes of plant suffocation (funguses) are present. Furthermore, if there is too much moisture in the ground, this also damages the plants and, technically speaking, this latter phenomenon has nothing to do with the causes of plant suffocation. This latter phenomenon results in the rotting of the plant roots. However, this is something which can be overcome by the plants after the rate of humidity and moisture decreases around the plant roots because secondary roots then form which replace the primary roots."

Concerning the importance of disinfection, Dr Ridwan mentioned the following: "The cotton plant suffocation disease is something which is found worldwide and is being combatted by means of disinfection of seeds by means of the utilization of special fungus pesticides. However, the utilization of pesticides does not completely prevent the damage. In fact, the degree of effectiveness ranges between 0 percent and 70 percent. This variable is determined by a number of factors, which include the type of pesticide used, the degree to which it is appropriate for the fungus involved, the type of planting utilized, the weather conditions which the crop is subjected to, etc."

Dr Ridwan went on to say: "When the plant suffocation disease is present to a great extent and the usefulness of one or more pesticides, on the basis of field experiments, has been demonstrated, it then becomes vitally necessary to use the pesticide provided that the application of the pesticide is accompanied by a reduction in the quantities of seeds utilized per unit of land in order to compensate for the costs of disinfection."

Concerning the testing previously conducted, Dr Ridwan pointed out the fact that many years had gone by since these tests and that it had become necessary to conduct new tests, especially since the utilization of a number of pesticides used in these tests had now become prohibited throughout the world.

Summary

On the basis of all the aforementioned, one could summarize the situation as follows:

1. The low rates of growth of the cotton plants and the plowing under of some of the fields were a general phenomenon which occurred in cotton fields in all regions.
2. Most regions have attributed the low growth rates of the cotton plants to a series of circumstances resulting from bad weather conditions--with the exception of some of the experts in the al-Ghab area who attributed this condition to the plant suffocation disease after the Directorate of the Cotton Bureau had already made this determination before they did. They told us that the initial estimates stated by the Directorate of the Cotton Bureau since 1 May are turning out to be totally accurate even in the case of the plowed-under areas.
3. The plowed-under areas included lands planted by machine with hulled seeds and others planted in the traditional manner with unhulled seeds. In other words, there is no correlation between the low growth rates and the method of planting used, nor between the low growth rates and the type of seeds used.
4. The germination processes of the hulled seeds demonstrated that even the lowest rate of germination was one which was technically acceptable.
5. Almost everyone indicated that the basic cause of the problem was the early planting date which had been recommended by the 17th Cotton Conference.
6. Nobody objects, in principle, to disinfection. But some people feel that this should be done and then applied everywhere only if it is economical, if it is preceded by field and laboratory tests, and if its nationwide application is linked to a decrease in the quantities of seeds utilized in each unit of land. The latest cotton conference held the matter in abeyance pending a decision by the committee formed by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Engineers' Trade Union.
7. The most important thing noted is the fact that the process of replanting was not a well-organized operation based on clear and definite scientific principles and [was not organized] by technical committees having the participation of all of the parties involved. Instead, this operation was done hastily and it seemed to us that every party involved in this operation began doing its work in isolation from every other party engaged in the operation. Some people were saying that the plowing under should be done right away, while others were saying that one should wait and see. After this, a feeling of panic and alarm spread among the farmers who feared for their crops and

they impulsively began to replant their crops starting with 1 May since they knew that the planting of cotton previously had been done first either on or after this date.

Our view is that this constitutes a negative indicator. In the case of a problem such as this one which costs our nation millions of Syrian pounds, we should have experts, scientists, and decision-makers quickly meet together and study all aspects of the matter. Then a collective decision should be taken concerning how to deal with the problem in a timely manner in order that, for the next phase, lessons can be learned, conclusions can be drawn, the causes of the problem can be examined, and responsibilities can be determined.

In any case, our cotton crop is now in good shape. But we hope that this whole business will not have occurred without us pausing and making a scientific and objective analysis which will enable us to accurately determine the dimension of the problem, learn the cause or causes of the problem, and take all of this into consideration during future crop seasons.

9468

CSO: 4404/2

IMPORTANCE OF RELATIONS WITH PRC STRESSED

GF021900 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 2 Nov 84 p 1

[Editorial: "Completion of the Network of Relations"]

[Text] The UAE decision to establish diplomatic relations with the PRC on the ambassadorial level is compatible with the proclaimed foreign policy of our country. This foreign policy is based on the principles of nonalignment, on rejection of international polarization, and on driving the Gulf region and the Arab homeland away from the disputes of the superpowers.

A nonaligned policy which is adopted by any country entails a number of matters among which is attainment of a balance in its relations with the other blocs in the world. Since this very balance already exists in the UAE's foreign policy--through its practices and well-known positions on various world political and economic issues--then the establishment of diplomatic relations with any big country is regarded as a coronation or a demonstration of an existing state. This is why the establishment of relations with the PRC is important. It reaffirms the constancy of the nonaligned foreign policy of our state.

It has become well-known that in the science of politics and its practical implementation that one of the guarantees for keeping away from international polarization is attainment of balanced relations with the "poles"--particularly with regard to an area like ours which is subject to well-known foreign ambitions and to strong competition among the superpowers. From this premise, one of the best methods to confront these ambitions is to establish a delicate balance with the various influential and effective international powers.

The decision undertaken by the UAE yesterday is sagacious. It ensures stability and makes our foreign policy more effective. This, moreover, represents a qualitative move in grasping international relations. We hope that the establishment of relations with the third superpower in the world will be a prelude for the completion of a network of diplomatic relations with other powers with whom we have no diplomatic relations at present in order to attain a full balance in our international relations. Such a balance will provide a new potential that will bolster our proclaimed policies which are opposed to polarization and to foreign interference in the affairs of the region.

CSO: 4400/37

450 MUSLIMS 'MASSACRED'

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 18 Nov 84 p 5

[Text]

NEW DELHI (UPI) — A Soviet officer ordered the massacre of 450 unarmed Moslem freedom fighters who had surrendered after holding a mountain fortress in central Afghanistan.

The execution occurred in early October in Hezarajot west of the capital of Kabul, said the diplomat, quoting "a credible source."

"Four weeks ago, a rebel force held the mountain fortress at an undisclosed location in Hezarajot against a combined Soviet and Afghan regime force until their ammunition ran out," the diplomat said.

"At that point they were forced to surrender," the source said. "When the Soviet and regime force entered the fortress and disarmed them, the Soviet officer in charge gave the order that all the fighters were to be summarily executed."

In Kabul, Mujahideen attacked the Defense Ministry at the Darulaman Palace with rocket fire Nov. 4, killing five Afghan soldiers.

"Prolonged machine gun fire came from near or in the Prime Ministry just after curfew on the night of Nov. 10-11," the source said.

According to the Mujahideen fighters sources, a four-engine Soviet transport plane with a 10-man crew was shot down south of Kabul near Bagrami on Oct. 27.

One source said the Shomali valley town of Istalef, just north of the capital, was bombed by Soviet and government forces Nov. 2, leaving "many civilian casualties."

In another fighting, guerrillas ambushed a Soviet convoy near Grishk in southern Helmand province Oct. 22, killing four Soviet soldiers. Another attack on a Soviet convoy near the western city of Herat Oct. 25 left 12 Soviet troops dead or captured, diplomats said.

Afghan Mujahideen, estimated in strength at between 100,000 and 200,000, are trying to oust more than 100,000 Soviet troops who invaded and occupied the landlocked country in December 1979.

HEAVY FIGHTING IN PANJSHER

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 20 Nov 84 p 1

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Nov. 19 (Dispatches) — Fighting between Communist and guerrilla forces has erupted along much of Afghanistan's Panjsher Valley floor, a Peshawar-based resistance party said today.

Jamiat-i-Islami, quoting a letter from its Panjsher Commander Ahmad Shah Masood, said its fighters had driven off attacking Communist forces from several side valleys in recent weeks.

But the fighting shifted to a 40 km (25 mile) stretch of the valley floor once Puzhgur, an Afghan army garrison deep in the valley, was finally resupplied on November 8, it said.

The letter, which was dated last Friday and arrived in Peshawar last night, said guerrillas had shot down seven helicopters and one jet.

It also said Mujahideen forces had killed dozens of Communist soldiers, shot down two SU-25 ground-attack jets and destroyed several tanks in two side valleys. Western diplomats here could not independently confirm the reports.

Puzhgur, about 50 km (30 miles) from the entrance, is the last Communist garrison in the narrow valley, where Soviet troops took all main villages in an offensive this spring.

They withdrew from Puzhgur in September, leaving about 500 Afghan army troops there. The garrison has been cut off since then, Western diplomats said.

According to Masood's letter, Jamiat guerrillas held off Communist assaults on several side valleys along the southern flank of the Panjsher, which is now effec-

tively cut off.

Western diplomats here said it appeared Kabul was trying to gain a firm hold over the valley floor before winter narrowed its options. Snow has begun to fall in the Panjsher, which runs along the Hindu Kush Mountains north of Kabul.

Jamiat sources said the guerrillas would be cut off from outside supplies this winter for the first time since the war began because government troops had sealed the southern approaches and the northeastern passes were blocked by snow.

The letter did not say whether Soviet forces were among the Communist troops fighting the guerrillas. Western diplomats estimate that the Soviet Union has more than 115,000 troops in Afghanistan.

AFGHANISTAN

SOVIET PLANE, HELICOPTERS SHOT DOWN

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 21 Nov 84 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 20 (UPI)--Afghan Mujahideen shot down a Soviet military transport plane and five helicopter gunships, reportedly killing a Soviet general, Western diplomats said Tuesday.

The diplomats also reported an upsurge in Soviet aviation activities, including construction of two new airfields along southwest Afghanistan's sensitive border with Iran.

In the most recent aircraft downings, the Mujahideen knocked two Soviet helicopters out of the sky Nov 13, killing a Soviet general whose name was given phonetically as "karaskin," a diplomat said.

The general was killed while returning from his post in the garrison at Khost, in Paktia Province, to Kabul, the source said, unable to provide further details.

In the other incident, a Soviet officer and an Afghan soldier managed to parachute out of their disabled helicopter gunship and were captured by the Mujahideen, the source said.

She provided no location for the attack and had no further casualty figures.

On Nov 11, the Mujahideen shot down a four-engine military transport, probably an Antonov 12, but the location of the downing was uncertain, the source said, quoting two other diplomats.

According to one account, the Soviet plane went down near Rishkor, southwest of Kabul. Another placed the downing in the Logar Valley, south of the mile-high capital.

The Mujahideen using heavy machine guns and rockets also shot down a heavily armed MI-24 helicopter and two other choppers making a retaliatory bombing run south of Kabul, the sources said.

The anti-aircraft successes continued Mujahideen inroads against Soviet attacks from the air, where "Moscow was essentially unchallenged for so long," a diplomat said. In late October insurgents downed several helicopters and on Oct 27 they shot down a Soviet transport near Kabul.

The spurt of attacks on aircraft coincides with reports that the Mujahideen have obtained larger and better supplies of rockets.

In recent months, Soviet aircraft have begun firing flares when landing to deflect heat-seeking rockets fired by the insurgents, the sources said.

Despite the Mujahideen attacks, the diplomats reported a recent increase in plane and helicopter movements out of Kabul, particularly toward Ghazni and Pagman, southwest of Kabul.

New Airstrips

At the same time, a diplomatic source said the Soviets are reportedly building air strips at Mir-e-Daud, south of the city of Herat, and at Dast-e-Amiran, in Nimroz Province in the southwest corner of the country, the sources said.

They had no further details, and the reports could not be independently confirmed because the entry of Western reporters into Afghanistan has been strictly controlled since the Soviets invaded in 1979.

CDO: 4600/110

REFUGEES EXPELLED FROM PESHAWAR

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 25 Nov 84 p 7

[Text]

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, Nov. 24 (Reuter) — About 10,000 unmarried Afghan refugees have been expelled from Peshawar, capital of Pakistan's Northwest Frontier Province (NWFP), and another 5,000 will be thrown out next month, an official said today.

The remaining 30,000 Afghans allowed to stay in the crowded city will receive special passes to keep police from harassing them, NWFP Commissioner for Afghan Refugees Rustam Shah Mohmand told reporters.

He said a total of 35 offices of Afghan guerrilla parties have also moved out of the city, which became the base for the Muslim resistance after Kabul's Communist coup in 1978 and the Soviet army's intervention the following year.

Jolted by a series of bomb-blasts aimed at Afghan

targets, Peshawar last August began ordering unmarried Afghans and all resistance groups to vacate the city.

The parties have moved without many problems but protested that police were indiscriminately arresting and harassing young Afghan men in the city to make them leave.

Rustam Shah said the next 5,000 bachelors would be traced through their landlords, who will be ordered to expel them. Peshawar has about 550,000 Pakistani inhabitants.

Commenting on security problems, the commissioner said police had questioned 61,000 suspicious refugees in the past five years and only 60 of them had been found to be saboteurs.

NWFP, which has about two million Afghans registered in its refugee camps, has been receiving a normal

flow of 2,000 to 3,000 each month, he said, adding that this influx was expected to continue in the near future.

Baluchistan Province hosts another 500,000 refugees and a further 500,000 are unregistered and living in cities and towns across the country, officials say.

The NWFP commissioner's office, which employs 6,467 people former refugees, has sacked 1,779 officials for corruption in the past five years, Rustam Shah said.

Asked about an arms haul in Parachinar, along a guerrilla supply route into Afghanistan, the commissioner said officials last week seized 181 bombs there but declined to say whether people arrested in the operation were Afghan or Pakistani nationals.

RADIO CRITICIZES JORDAN KING'S PNC INAUGURATION

GF231006 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Nov 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] We believed everything that 'Arafat said, but nobody expected him to allow the butcher of Black September to inaugurate the PNC meetings. The reason is clear: To date, 'Arafat pretended that his relations with Jordan was of one party with another. The Palestinians are independent of Jordan. They represent a force when they negotiate or hold decisions with the regime. Accordingly, the Jordanian regime deals with the Palestinians as a separate group from the regime, with its own complete sovereignty, decision, and views. But today, after the king of Jordan inaugurated the PNC meeting, it has become an announcement to the world that he is the owner of the Palestinian issue, and he is actually responsible for it. Others may admit that this issue is natural, because the PNC is usually opened by one of the Arab leaders invited by the PNC. In answer to this objection we say that there is a great difference between the fact that the PNC is inaugurated by the king of Jordan or inaugurated by an other Arab leader. The difference, of course, lies in the nature of the existing relations between these rulers and the Palestinian issue, and between the present relationship between the king of Jordan and the Palestinian question. There is a big difference between the invitation of an Arab leader to inaugurate the PNC--as an honorary matter--and the invitation of the king of Jordan to conduct this mission.

The king of Jordan believes that he is the first and the last one responsible for the Palestinian issue and a great ambition urged him to control and direct the Palestinian issue according to his policies and beliefs. We can add that the issue of the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue contains one project: To give the king of Jordan the right to speak in their name and to give him full authority over all Palestinian people. If we add what is already being mentioned to the project of the confederation state--which has been suggested by Reagan in his initiative in September 1982--the picture will be clear to everybody. The suggested confederation is based on giving the Palestinians the right to autonomy under the sponsorship of the Jordanian rule. This means that the Palestinian people will be part of the Jordanian state under the leadership of Husayn, king of Jordan. It seems that all the Palestinian parties which announced their loyalty to the Jordanian regime began to admit this fact. They began to act likewise. One example of this fact is the invitation of the

PNC for convening in Jordan, and the invitation of the king of Jordan to inaugurate the PNC. The king of Jordan, for others, is the king of the Palestinian people in case the Reagan plan is implemented. It seems that there are all indications that he is the only option who is supported by all the compromising parties. He will win the battle during Reagan's new term in office. Some others began to deal with the issue in the light of this fact, and began to promise the shah of Jordan the throne of the West Bank as the king of the Palestinian people. The inauguration of the PNC by the shah of Jordan is a clear demonstration of this fact and not an honorary issue. The picture is not hidden from the eyes.

A lot of the Palestinian people consider this play a U.S.-Jordanian plot to wipe out the Palestinian issue, to abolish the legitimate presence of the Palestinian people, and to convert them into a group of people belonging to the Jordanian regime. What will be the reaction of the loyals who are facing the most difficult stage in the Palestinian issue? What will be their decision toward the conspiracy conducted by 'Arafat and his friends in order to install the butcher of the Palestinian people as their leader.

CSO: 4604/19

IRAN

WAR INFORMATION CHIEF REPEATS CHARGES AGAINST RED CROSS

LD251903 Tehran IRNA in English 1854 GMT 25 Nov 84

[Text] Tehran, 25 Nov, IRNA--The head of the Iranian War Information Headquarters (WIH) repeated Iran's charges that officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Iran had acted as spies.

Dr Kamal Kharrazi also said the ICRC had failed to act as an impartial party between Iran and Iraq and had not carried out its duties according to the Geneva Convention to investigate the condition of Iranian POW's in Iraq.

Speaking at a press conference to more than 50 reporters and diplomatic press attaches in Tehran Sunday, Kharrazi said the Red Cross officials will not be permitted to visit Iraqi POW's "without meeting pre-conditions and unless the Red Cross representatives give assurances."

The activities of the ICRC were suspended in Iran following a report published by the organisation 4 weeks ago on a riot in a POW camp in Gorgan on 10 October, in which 6 POW's were killed, 3 of them by the POW's themselves and 40 injured.

Iran protested to the ICRC for making the report public before an official investigation of the incident.

A UN investigating mission invited by Iran cancelled its visit after Iraq refused to allow the mission to make its first stop in Baghdad to enquire into the fate of Iranians missing in Iraq.

Further antagonising Iranians, the president of the ICRC, Alexander Hay, issued a statement Friday making serious accusations against Iran on its treatment of Iraqi POW's.

Kharrazi said "Iran is willing to allow an international organization to judge who is to blame--the Islamic republic or the Red Cross representatives?"

He said an Iraqi POW who was passing a list of POW's opposed to the Iraqi regime to ICRC representatives incited the riot at the Gorgan camp.

"This has not been the first time such lists have been passed from Ba'thist prisoners to Red Cross representatives," he said.

He said two Red Cross officials were involved in a similar action in the Mehrabad and Parandak camps in 1981.

"What would a Red Cross representative benefit from the list of prisoners who are opposed to the Iraqi regime?

"Do such actions have any other than meaning than...espionage?"

A telex report on the Gorgan riot sent by the ICRC from Geneva to the Iranian Foreign Ministry on 31 October and distributed in the press conference stated that the riot began from a fight between two POW's.

"At about 11:30 am one of the delegates in the yard saw that a dispute had arisen between two Iraqi pows. This quickly spread and soon the whole camp was in uproar," the report said.

"The guards at first fired warning shots into the air and by loud-speakers ordered the POW's to return to their dormitories.

"On their part, (Red Cross) delegates tried to calm the prisoners. Other delegates tried to separate POW's fighting each other and urged the guards to refrain from opening fire. The delegates' efforts were futile.

"A few minutes later, the POW's stormed the camp exit. After launching tear-gas bombs and shooting in the air, the guards began firing into the crowd.

"At about 12:30 pm calm had been restored. The ICRC delegates were told to leave the camp.

"On 11 October 1984 one delegate and the medical delegate were allowed to examine 3 corpses which had not been identified and 35 wounded POW's. The 3 corpses showed wounds on the head, caused by blows."

He said the existence of different factions among Iraqi POW's was natural because they were in an atmosphere free from the suppressive actions of the minority Ba'th Party in their country.

In a film shown to reporters, six Iraqi POW's confessed to the murder of the three POW's. They said they had passed on information to the ICRC officials, including the names of the four POW's opposed to SADDAM Husayn's regime.

Kharrazi also criticised the ICRC president for his statement that expressed strong concern for the "threatened" lives of Iraqi POW's as well as the publishing of the report on the Gorgan riot before a full investigation.

"How could the ICRC claim that the lives of 50,000 Iraqi prisoners are threatened in Iran while it does not publish its own reports on the condition of Iranian prisoners/" he said.

An ICRC document distributed to reporters contained a report never published on the murder of two Iranian POW's in an Iraqi camp in July 1982.

"The ICRC delegation in Baghdad has been notified by the Iraqi authorities that during a riot in the al-Mawsil one prisoner of war camp on 25 July 1982, two prisoners died. Twelve others were wounded," it states.

"...During the ICRC visit to the camp in August, the prisoners stated that no disciplinary measures had been taken against them since the day of the riot.

"On being informed of these deaths, the ICRC immediately contacted the highest Iraqi authorities, in order to remind them of their responsibilities and duties as provided for in Article 121 of the Third Geneva convention...."

The article states "every death or serious injury of a prisoner of war caused by or suspected to have been caused by a sentry, another prisoner of war or any person, as well as any death the cause of which is unknown, shall be immediately followed by an official enquiry by the detaining power."

Kharrazi said the ICRC had done nothing to look into the fate of 20,000 Iranians missing in Iraq despite frequent requests by the Islamic Republic.

There are more than 2,000 civilian Iranians who were taken captive during the Iraqi invasion of Iran and must be freed according to the Geneva convention, he added.

He said Iran launched a complaint about the matter to the Human Rights Commission of the UN. "But the Red Cross prevented the commission from taking action with the excuse that they (ICRC) would investigate."

CSO: 4600/116

IRAN

IRANIAN OFFICIAL ACCUSES RED CROSS OVER POW'S

GF260644 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Brother Kamal Kharazi, chairman of the committee for war information, yesterday held a press conference in Tehran attended by local and foreign journalists.

At this conference Brother Kharazi discussed violations by the International Red Cross and the role of its representatives in instigating the incident which took place at the Iraqi POW camp in Gorgan, northern Iran. Referring to the fact that a number of the International Red Cross representatives in Tehran were involved in conveying secret information to the ruling regime in Iraq, Brother Kharazi asserted that despite this fact, the International Red Cross had refrained from executing its duties in Iran in accordance with the Geneva Charter.

Brother Kharazi then showed documents pertaining to the incident in which the International Red Cross representatives collected the names of those opposed to the Iraqi regime in the camps of the Iraqi POW's and to the method in which the Red Cross representatives instigated the POW's on 10 October resulting in the martyring of a number of Iraqi POW's. Brother Kharazi added that among other things, the International Red Cross of neutrality has refused to review the conditions of the Iranian POW's and those missing in Iraq.

Brother Kharazi provided examples by noting bad health and rigorous living conditions which the Iranian POW's are experiencing. He also referred to the cursing of the POW's in addition to torture which led to the martyrdom of a number of them. He said: As the International Red Cross does not publish its reports on the conditions of the Iranian POW's in Iraq, how come it claims that the Iraqi POW's living in Iran are in danger?

CSO: 4604/20

NVOI CARRIES LETTER OF TUDEH PRISONERS' FAMILIES

TA280655 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1930 GMT 27 Nov 84

["Text" of letter by families of Tudeh political prisoners addressed to the UN secretary general--date not given]

[Text] To the UN Secretary General,

As you are aware, judicial organs of the Islamic Republic of Iran have announced that they intend to hold a trial of members of the leadership and central cadres of the Iranian Tudeh Party.

For approximately 2 years, over 10,000 of our fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, spouses and children--who are members and followers of the Iranian Tudeh Party--have been arrested on imaginary and unfounded charges, and are being subjected to the most intense physical and mental tortures.

The trial of many of them was held a long time ago behind closed doors, in violation of the most elementary legal and judicial mores and the UN human rights charter. So far a number have been executed, and some others have died under torture. For hundreds of others, too, long-term prison sentences and verdicts of life imprisonment have been issued. Leaders of the Islamic Republic of Iran refrain even from handing over the corpses of the Tudeh prisoners--who were killed under torture or who were executed--to their families.

Our dear ones in the prisons of the Islamic Republic are suffering from various contagious and mental diseases as a result of savage tortures and the prison's unhealthy environment, and government officials refuse to treat them. Amid conditions in which the peril of death is threatening another group of our dear ones, in the name of thousands of bereaved and concerned families, we seek your assistance. By virtue of your responsibility as the UN secretary general, we request that you make our voices heard by all the world's people, and that you act urgently to save the lives of the Tudeh prisoners. This is the minimum request posed to your excellency and all humanitarian individuals by thousands of headless families. We are pinning our hopes on your urgent measures.

[Signed] Families of Tudeh political prisoners.

CSO: 4640/160

IRAN

IRNA CLAIMS IRAQ HOLDS 20,000 MISSING IRANIANS

LD272116 Tehran IRNA in English 1808 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Tehran, 27 Nov, IRNA--According to existing statistics, there are over 7,500 Iranian POW's in Iraq. Also there are about 20,000 Iranians missing in Iraq, most of whom are believed to be among the unregistered captives.

Announcing this, members of the committee supporting Iranian prisoners of war further said in a televised press conference Tuesday that most POW's and captives had been identified through radio messages from Baghdad radio, Iraqi newspapers, as well as information from released Iranian prisoners.

One of the committee members, Dr Sadr, said reports on torture, abuse or martyrdom of Iranian prisoners were not usually published in Iran in order that relatives of other captives would not become worried.

Sadr said that due to the Iranian pressures to identify the undeclared Iranian prisoners, the Iraqi regime has started a propaganda campaign, alleging that there are Iraqi prisoners in Iran who have not been visited by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

He categorically denied such allegations as baseless.

He said there are about 50,000 Iraqi prisoners in Iran all of whom have been registered by the ICRC and have contacts with their families through letters.

The committee members called on the international organisations and the people of the world to act to prevent Iraqi violations against Iranian POW's.

They reminded the ICRC of its duty to be impartial in its activities. A statement issued by the ICRC president attacking the Islamic Republic of Iran discarded the principle of neutrality and ignored major Iraqi violations.

The committee was formed more than a year ago and is composed of representatives from Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps, the army, Prime Ministry, Foreign Ministry, Interior Ministry, War Information Headquarters, Martyrs Foundation and Red Crescent Society.

CSO: 4600/115

CLANDESTINE RADIO DISCUSSES RIFTS IN IRANIAN ARMED FORCES

GF291840 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 29 Nov 84

[Excerpt] 'Ali Khamene'i, the president of the Khomeyni regime, in the seminar for commanders of the Revolution Guards today admitted the existence of wide rifts within the Revolution Guard Corps. He said that these differences have caused concern in the government and that such differences tend to weaken the armed forces. He said that with wisdom and farsight these differences must be buried.

Regarding the continuing war, 'Ali Khamene'i said that the world powers continue to create problems for us and that they do not want the Islamic revolution to reach its objectives by remaining a unified force.

We remind listeners here that the differences within the Revolution Guards Corps began with the new measures introduced to reorganize the corps and have now become widespread. Thousands of Revolution Guards in protest against the reorganization have either stopped working or have resigned.

In some areas the revolution guards have even been fighting each other and on several occasions groups have exchanged fire. Thousands of Revolution Guards who had been attracting public hatred for being mercenaries of the regime are now foresaking their jobs in order to save themselves from the revenge of the Iranian people.

The nationalist forces inside and outside the country have warned the Revolution Guards that they should quit doing the dirty chores of the clerics' regime and join the national ranks. If they repent and stop serving the oppressive Khomeyni regime, they may earn the pardon of the Iranian people. Otherwise when the criminal Khomeyni regime has fallen they will also be tried by the national courts.

CSO: 4640/159

IRAN

PAPER VIEWS CAIRO STUDENT UNREST AS 'FIRST SPARK' OF UPRISING

LD272127 Tehran IRNA in English 1818 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Tehran, 27 Nov, IRNA--In its Tuesday editorial the Persian daily JOMIURI ESLAMI said that the student unrest at the Islamic al-Azhar University of Cairo is proof of "a new wave of upsurge of Islam" in Egypt and the first in a series of fresh protests to Husni Mubarak for selling the aspirations of Muslims to Washington.

It said the campus agitation which started on Sunday is a manifestation of the anger of the Egyptian people over passivity of Cairo towards Washington and an expression of their resentment over the ignominious Camp David agreement.

The daily has reviewed the current campus incidents in Cairo principally in light of political developments in Egypt since the coming to power of Anwar al-Sadat and his successor Husni Mubarak and argues that the student demonstrations in al-Azhar University this week is symptomatic of a much deeper injury in the hearts of millions of Egyptians whose Islamic conscience has been outraged by policies which have evidently degraded the Muslim people of that country as a nation against their Zionist enemies.

It says much as Mubarak has recently done to assure the Egyptians of a policy of non-alignment with Washington. The Egyptian people have not forgotten the many military maneuvers at which the Egyptian forces were a partner along with the U.S. Marine and Air Forces. The editorial reminds that the student protests though officially described as a minor incident and an unimportant dispute between student bodies and the campus administration, are in fact the first spark of an uprising inspired by the same ideology which led Khalid Eslambouli (al-Sadat's assassin) and others to "pulling down the traitor al-Sadat from the throne of power."

CSO: 4600/114

BRIEFS

ENVOY TO SAUDI ARABIA--His Majesty the King has appointed Mr Tirtha Raj Tuladhar royal Nepalese ambassador to Saudi Arabia. This was announced in a notice issued by His Majesty's principal press secretariat Thursday. [Exerpt] [Katmandu THE RISING NEPAL 15 Nov 84 p 1 BK]

DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH ZIMBABWE--His Majesty's Government of the Kingdom of Nepal and the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe have decided to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level. The number of countries having diplomatic relations with Nepal has now reached 89. [Excerpt] [Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 16 Nov 84 BK]

BELGIAN ENVOY--Mr Marcel Van de Kerckhove has been appointed as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Belgium to the Kingdom of Nepal, according to a Foreign Ministry press release. Mr Kerckhove will reside in New Delhi. [Text] [Katmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 20 Nov 84 p 1 BK]

CSO: 4600/108

MINISTER SAYS ISLAMIZATION HAS NOT HURT TOURISM

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 8 Nov 84 p 12

[Text] KARACHI, Nov. 7: Mr. Niaz Mohammad Arbab, Federal Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sports had said the Tourism conventions being held since last three years have helped in better projection of Pakistan abroad and attracting more foreign tourists.

Talking to newsmen at the end of the meetings of six workshops at a local hotel today, he said the question of grant of incentives concessions and facilities to the travel trade was under constant consideration of the Tourism Ministry.

The Ministry, has taken up the genuine demands of the travel trade with the concerned ministries and departments of the Federal and Provincial Governments to provide them required relief.

He assured that the Government would provide all possible concessions and facilities to the private sector to promote tourism in the country.

Asked whether enforcement of Islamic system in the country had affected flow of foreign tourists, the Minister replied in the negative.

"We are promoting culture and adventure tourism in Pakistan. In 1983 a total of 3.65 lakh foreign tourists visited Pakistan", he added.

The next tourism convention will be held either in Quetta or Peshawar next year.

Earlier addressing the participants of the six workshops Mr. Arbab said recommendations of the previous conventions were still being considered since these pertain to policy decisions which have far reaching impact.

"If the Government were to accept all recommendations about taxation it would lose crores of Rupees in revenue. I am sure the Government would want to help but, it would have to identify alternate options of revenue before agreeing to these recommendations. Such decision, cannot be taken overnight and has to be given due consideration", he added.

He said President Zia-ul-Haq has instructed other ministries including commerce and finance to go into these problems.

"We may have failed once but, the issue is not dead and there is definite hope of a breakthrough. The very fact that through these conventions, we have been able to register our problems with the highest authority is in itself a great achievement."

CSO: 4600/93

'PRIOR CONSULTATIONS' URGED ON LAWS AFFECTING WOMEN

Karachi DAWN in English 8 Nov 84 p 12

[Text] QUETTA, Nov 7: The Pakistan Commission on the Status of Women, while expressing its "dismay and concern" over the promulgation of laws affecting the rights and status of women in the country, has called for its members to be consulted before any legislative measures are taken in this regard.

Presided over by chairperson Begum Zari Sarfraz, the commission during its week-long deliberations in Quetta and other parts of Baluchistan adopted a resolution making clear its point of view on laws framed by the Government which could have a bearing on the rights and status of womenfolk of Pakistan.

The resolution said that the commission had been established, by none other than the President of Pakistan, Gen. Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq, himself to "ascertain rights and responsibilities of women in an Islamic society and to make recommendations to the Federal Government for effective safeguard of women's rights. "Members of the commission thus strongly felt that they should be consulted before the promulgation of any law affecting women, it added.

The commission invited attention to its earlier resolution which was adopted on Aug 25 at Peshawar wherein it was mentioned that legislative measures affecting women's status and rights should be deferred till such time that the commission had submitted its report to the President of Pakistan, and that members of the commission should be given an opportunity to present their point of view to the President on legislative measures affecting women.

Tribute to Indira

Members of the Pakistan Commission on the Status of Women also resolved to express their profound shock and grief over the tragic assassination of Indian Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi, who was "an illustrious leader of the people of India and the Non-Aligned Movement".

A resolution said that throughout her life she served her country with great devotion and dedication. She was, it added, an eminent stateswoman of world stature, a source of inspiration and a symbol of courage and strength for the women of Asia, particularly the subcontinent.

As chairperson of the Indian Status of Women Commission and as a woman Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi ensured protection to women of India by guaranteeing social justice and equal rights and opportunities, the resolution stated.

It further said that Mrs. Indira Gandhi helped bring about a distinct revolution and transformation in the life and image of contemporary Indian women and gave them an honoured place in the community of nations. With her death, the resolution observed, women on Asia and the Subcontinent had lost an important torch-bearer of women's rights.

The commission left Quetta on Wednesday for Pasni in Mekran Division on the way to Karachi, where it will hold a two-day session commencing on Friday. In Karachi, members of the commission will also hold discussions with lawyers on the Hadood Ordinance and the Law of Evidence.

During their visit to the interior of the province, members of the commission were confronted with some peculiar problems which included inadequacy of education and health facilities, polygamy, and child marriages. The commission was also informed at some places that in the absence of separate jails for women, female convicts were kept in houses of influential people during their sentence period. It was brought to the notice of the commission that there was dire need for a girl's college in Kalat, and more health and education centres ought to be set up in the area as well.

CSO: 4600/94

PUNJAB MINISTER TALKS ABOUT FARM TO MARKET ROADS

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 9 Nov 84 p 11

[Text] The Government plans to build 3,800 miles of new farm-to-market roads in Punjab at a cost of Rs. 225.45 crore by June next.

The Provincial Agriculture Minister, Brigadier (Retd) Ghazanfar Muhammad Khan, said this on Thursday. He said that the length of roads completed under the Farm-to-Market Roads Programme would be more than double the length of the G. T. Road.

He said that the big communications network provided by the farm to market roads would help in accelerating the pace of development in far flung areas.

The Minister pointed out that Government was giving priority to electrification of rural areas for development of cottage and agro-based industries. Of 6,945 villages electrified after the creation of Pakistan, 3,900 had received the facility during the past five years. Another 800 villages were proposed to be electrified during the 6th Five Year Plan.

He said that Government would take all possible measures to ensure reasonable economic return for cotton growers and would not allow the general price level fall below the support price. A Martial Law Order may also be promulgated to ensure reasonable prices for cotton growers, he said.

CSO: 4600/93

LAHORE SLUM COLONIES SAID TO 'ENJOY MODERN FACILITIES'

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 9 Nov 84 p 4

[Text] A large population clustered in seven major Katchi Abadis of Lahore who had for long remained deprived of even bare civic amenities were now enjoying the modern facilities of roads, sewerage and drinking water and social benefits made possible through joint efforts of the Punjab Government and the UNICEF.

Soon after the residents of these Abadis were given proprietary rights by the present Government for which they had been struggling for decades, massive development work of construction of roads, laying of sewer pipes and provision of drinking water to them was undertaken by the Lahore Development Authority while the UNICEF started building adult education centres, mother and child care units, nutrition facilities for children and other social welfare projects.

A technical training centre for providing technical education to the children of these Abadis has been built at Kot Lakhpat.

Community Halls for the social gatherings of the people have also been provided in some of the localities such as Islamapura, Qari Shah Shams, Hanif Park and Basti Saidan Shah.

Inaugurating one such hall in Hanif Park on Tuesday the UNICEF Programme Officer for Punjab, Mr. Edward Trainer, said the UNICEF had launched social welfare programmes in more than one hundred developing countries.

He said the UNICEF had derived the concept of social service from a Hadith of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) that "father cannot give a better tift to his children than to their upbringing in a proper manner."

Mr. Trainer said that the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) had also stressed that service of Mankind irrespective of colour, creed or wealth was the greatest worship.

He said for proper upbringing of children by providing them better environment the UNICEF greatly benefitted from these basic principles of service to humanity as enjoined by the Holy Prophet.

Speaking on the occasion former LDA chief Major-Gen. (Retd.) M. H. Ansari said that the present Government was honestly fulfilling its obligation of providing a sense of security to the people, maintaining law and order and providing basic needs of life to the common people.

It was for the first time that during the last seven years the Government had taken steps to fully settle the people of Katchi Abadis at the same place by handing them down rights of ownership and by providing basic amenities of life to them. This was truly in consonance with the basic principles of Islam which the present Government was faithfully trying to introduce in every walk of national life, he said.

CSO: 4600/93

COMMENTARY MAKES FUN OF RADIO FREE EUROPE OFFICE IN ISLAMABAD

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 12 Nov 84 p 4

[Article by Khalid Hasan]

[Text] Why is everybody agitated over poor Radio Free Europe setting up a small little office in Islamabad? There is nothing wrong with Europe and, certainly, nothing wrong with freedom. Apart from that, Mr. Buckley is a gentleman of extreme refinement, as are his other, equally distinguished, brothers.

This yet another welcome indication that our relations with the United States are now close and friendly. All doubts have been set at rest and our security is no longer our problem.

Have we not been assured that in the event of aggression, any aggression, the marines would fly in? Subsequent 'clarifications' are not to be taken seriously, that being a part of the game called diplomacy. If you don't believe me, you only have to ask Agha Shahi who now appears to have a great deal of time to answer such questions. Gone are the days when he wouldn't even give you the time of day, but that is another story of which I hope to return when the institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad, invites me to enlighten its distinguished members on the defence applications of home-grown turnips.

Among our several claims to distinction is the fact that we are a 'front-line' state today. No longer the backroom boys, but a nation out front, head held high, chest thrown out, prepared to take on all comers. For a small country which used to be told by everybody where to go, this is no trifling achievement. We now get mentioned in despatches and, in the chancellories of the world, they talk about us in whispers.

While the west will fight the Russians to the last Afghan, we alone are willing to throw the gauntlet to the great military machine everybody else seems to be so impressed with. Who, other than us, has told them in strong and no-nonsense language to get back on their tanks and go home? Who made it possible for Mr. Brezhnevski (I can never spell his name) to fire a gun in the general direction of Moscow? And who has advocated the cause of the democratic rights of the Afghan people with more passion than us?

So, if friend Buckley wants to set up a small office in Islamabad, we should say: welcome to the land of the pure and may your efforts to free the brave Afghan people from foreign subjugation bear fruit. I am astonished that tolerance is being shown towards such vicious allegations in our press as that Radio Free Europe is funded by the CIA. Some of the noblest endeavours in the field of art, literature and politics have been funded by this much-maligned agency. Nobody speaks of that. It is not fair.

Mr. Buckley has said he does not plan to set up a broadcasting facility on our soil. I think he is being too nice. I would offer him one immediately. After all, the world is not unaware of the great services performed by Radio Free Europe and, its little sister, Radio Liberty, in the cause of freedom.

CSO: 4600/93

PAKISTAN

ZIA GIVES ASSURANCES TO JAPANESE INVESTORS

Karachi DAWN in English 25 Nov 84 p 10

[Text] Rawalpindi, Nov 24--President General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq has assured the Japanese businessmen of all possible help from the government for their investments in Pakistan.

He was addressing at a reception hosted in honour of the 48-member high-powered official Japanese economic mission at the State Guest House here on Saturday.

The President said that the climate was optimum for investment in Pakistan and the government would provide reasonable facilities in this regard.

He said that generally the businessman also look for political stability in the country, where investment was to be done, and "you see such an environment here in Pakistan."

Citing a quotation that "the capital goes where it is needed and stays where it is protected," he assured the Japanese businessmen that their investments would be well protected in Pakistan.

The President also mentioned the personal interest taken by the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Nakasone, who recently visited Pakistan in establishing cordial economic relations and said that the visit of the delegation, which is sponsored by the Japanese government, is reflective of this keen interest.

Reciprocating the President's remarks, Mr Goro Koyama, the leader of the delegation, thanked the President for his hospitality and said that while geographically Pakistan and Japan were far away, mentally both the nations were close to each other.

Earlier on his arrival, Mr Goro Koyama made a courtesy call on the President.

Some of the federal ministers, the Japanese Ambassador to Pakistan, high-ranking officials and some of the leading Pakistani industrialists also attended the reception.

Later, at a dinner hosted by him, Finance Minister Ghulam Ishaq Khan told the visitors that Pakistan looked forward to a growing interest on the part of Japanese private sector in investment opportunities here.

Such investment is highly welcome in industries where it involves technology transfer with a significant share in risk capital and improved prospects for increasing exports from Pakistan.

Earlier, talking to newsmen at the Islamabad Airport, Mr Goro Koyama, who is the Vice President of the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that the Japanese economic mission would discuss with Pakistani counterparts long and medium-term business prospects which could ensure mutual development and benefit of both the countries.

Mr Goro Koyama, at the head of the 48-member mission including top-level leaders of the major Japanese multinational industries, arrived here on Saturday night on a week-long visit.

Replying to a question, he said that the mission would seek additional means to promote economic cooperation between the two countries and added that the small investment in the private sector in Pakistan was because of too long geographical distance between the two countries.

Mr Goro Koyama said that the mission would have a meeting with President General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq, cabinet ministers, Governors of Sind and the Punjab, and businessmen.

During their stay in Pakistan the delegation will also hold joint meeting with officials of the economic ministries, in Islamabad, with executives of the financial institutions in Karachi and take part in the inauguration of committee of liaison and consultation between business circles of the two countries.

The Japanese delegation includes 17 top and senior executives, their 16 assistants, and seven government officials.

Senior executives of such giant multinationals like Nippon, Seiko, Marubeni, Mitsubishi, Toshiba, NEC, the Bank of Tokyo and the Mtishi Bank are included in the delegation.

The private sector entrepreneurs will present the portfolio of yen investment worthy projects in Karachi in their meeting with Japanese executives while the prospects of cooperation with the public sector will be thoroughly discussed in Islamabad at joint officials meeting. --APP

CSO: 4600/112

PAKISTAN

REPORT SAYS LARGE NUMBER OF OVERSEAS WORKERS TO RETURN

Karachi DAWN in English 25 Nov 84 p 1

[Texg] The International Labour Organisation (ILO) in its recent review has said that around 600,000 Pakistanis working in the Middle East and Gulf states would have to return home due to lack of jobs in those countries.

The ILO report said that due to the cuts in development project budgets by the Middle East and Gulf nations there would be sharp decrease in job opportunities which would force overseas Pakistanis to return home.

This situation, the ILO report said, would be of grave concern to Pakistani government as there would be remarkable reduction in the foreign exchange earned by the overseas Pakistani workers which amounted to about 289 crore US dollars and was expected to increase up to 450 crore US dollars by the end of 6th Five-Year Plan.

According to the report, Pakistani government could not meet its expectations of an increase of 10 percent every year in the remittances from overseas Pakistanis and on this expectation it had drawn up the 6th Five-Year Plan.

According to the report, Pakistani government could not meet its expectations of an increase of 10 percent every year in the remittances from overseas Pakistanis and on this expectation it had drawn up the 6th Five-Year Plan.

The ILO report also said that out of the total of Pakistani workers in the Middle East, around 500,000 were working illegally. Unskilled workers had been facing difficulties in finding jobs and eventually returning home, it added.

The ILO review said that there was a debt of 10 billion dollars on foreign banks and due to this unexpected situation Pakistan would suffer financial difficulties as well as unemployment.--BBC

CSO: 4600/112

OFFICIAL TALKS ABOUT REFUGEE PROBLEMS, RESETTLEMENT

Karachi DAWN in English 25 Nov 84 pp 1, 10

[Text] Peshawar, Nov 24--As many as 60 terrorists had been screened out of 61,000 Afghan refugees interrogated during last four years, while 55,000 of them were released after taking certain guarantees.

Sixty-four other suspects were still undergoing interrogation. This was disclosed by the Afghan Refugees Commissioner, NWFP, Mr Rustam Shah Mohammad at a news conference on Saturday. He told a questioner that so far over ten thousand bachelor refugees living in the city have been expelled and shifted to various refugee tentage villages. About five thousand more such singles would be forced out in due course of time.

Replying to a question, the Commissioner said only a few dozen refugees had returned back who were convicts or were afraid of interrogation here. He said that so far 35 Afghan refugee leaders have been shifted to the outskirts of the city in the first phase while these were scheduled to be permanently settled ten kilometres away from city in the second phase.

These steps, he said, were taken in view of the consideration that their stay over here could be prolonged beyond our estimates.

Replying to another question, the Commissioner said that most of the refugees were putting up on co-shared lands (Shamelat) or were provided barren lands.

A total of Rs 450 crore was spent on looking after the Afghan refugees every year, half of which was being provided by the Government of Pakistan and the rest was borne by the world community through UNHCR, WFP, ICRC and national and international voluntary agencies.

Replying to various questions, the Commissioner for Afghan Refugees told newsmen that cash amounts were provided to the refugees to meet their household expenditures but these were not necessarily provided on regular basis. UNHCR alone was spending Rs 55 crore on various schemes aimed at helping the refugees through setting up schools, hospitals, and income generating schemes.

Under the Education programme, 499 schools had so far been set up. One of them was high, a few middle standard, while 52 were exclusively for female students. Over 80,000 students were at present studying in these schools whereas about one thousand Afghan boys were admitted in various professional colleges in the country. So far 1200 teachers have been trained under the scheme.

The total number of registered Afghan refugees in the Frontier Province including tribal areas at present stands at 18,76,000 excluding about two lakh putting up at various places who are still unregistered. About ninety thousand refugees have so far been shifted to Mianwali, Punjab, while another 15,000 to 20,000 would be despatched in a couple of months.

Mr Rustam Shah Mohammad said the remuneration scheme that was launched in March this year was still inconclusive since the influx of refugees was unabated and about three thousand was the average of their entry into the Frontier Province every month.

The Commissioner further said that the total number of refugee tentage villages had been reduced to 235 from 280 in the province as at some places two villages were merged into one.

Replying to another question, the Commissioner said since we cannot afford to provide a regular supply of relief items to the refugees their movement in the country cannot be restricted at first hand.

Meanwhile, as many as 1,700 employees including four of Grade-18 have been dismissed from service in the NWFP Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees during last four and a half years. Most of these employees were dismissed on the charge of misappropriation of relief goods meant for Afghan refugees. He said that the checking of irregularities was institutionalised and two Additional Commissioners (Inspection) were appointed to look after this aspect alone. PPI

Our Staff Correspondent adds: The exodus of refugees from Afghanistan continues unabated and on the average 3,000 refugees per month are entering Pakistan by different routes since February this year, due mainly to increased fighting in areas bordering agencies and districts.

Mr Mohammad cited the present verified figures of refugees in the province at more than 20 lakh, claiming the figure to be one hundred percent correct.

Giving particulars of aid provided to Afghan refugees, he said that three lakh tents could be provided to refugees in the last four years though the requirement was much more.

About his organisation the Commissioner told the newsmen that 6,400 persons were working in the Provincial Commissionerate on whom Rs 6.70 crore were being spent by the Government.

CSO: 4600/112

END